



Republic of Mauritius

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INDICATORS

An Occasional Paper

ISSUE NO. 337

07 November, 2000

**1 ⇨ INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURISM
January to September 2000**

**2 ⇨ PRODUCTIVITY AND COMPETITIVENESS INDICATORS
1990 to 1999**

<http://ncb.intnet.mu/medrc.htm>

Price: Rs 30.-

Central Statistical Office
Ministry of Economic Development, Productivity and Regional Development
Port-Louis
Republic of Mauritius

Note: Readers are invited to make the distinction between official data which are published in the Economic Indicators and the analysis presented for the benefit of general readers. Differences of opinion may arise regarding the analytical part but these do not in any way, undermine the quality of the data. The Editors welcome constructive critical comments.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURISM

January to September 2000

1. Passenger Traffic

(i) *Total Passenger Traffic*

Passenger traffic for the period January to September 2000 totalled 1,264,780, made up of 630,210 arrivals and 634,570 departures. Compared to same period of 1999, these figures represent increases of 13% in arrivals and 12% in departures. Movements by sea accounted for 3% of both arrivals and departures. Table 1 shows monthly details of passenger traffic.

Total arrivals by air included 8,600 "excursionists", i.e. passengers arriving and leaving on the same day. Of these, 2,760 (32%) came from Reunion Island and 1,540 (18%) from France. Total arrivals by sea also included 10,460 "cruise excursionists" (5,840 passengers and 4,620 crews) aboard 16 cruise ships which visited our port during the first nine months of 2000.

(ii) *Departures of Mauritian Residents*

During the period under review, the number of Mauritian residents travelling abroad increased by 9%, from 114,360 in 1999 to 124,820 in 2000, and accounted for 20% of total departures. The following trends were observed in the major destinations: Reunion Island (-2%), France (+11%), United Kingdom (+3%), India (+9%), Singapore (+2%) and Rep. of South Africa (+4%). A more detailed distribution by country visited is presented in Table 2.

(iii) *Tourist Arrivals*

Total tourist arrivals numbered 472,830 for the first nine months of 2000, which is 14% higher than the figure of 413,510 attained in the corresponding period of 1999. This was mainly due to growths from the major generating countries like France, United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Reunion Island, Republic of South Africa and India as well as from the emerging markets like Belgium and Austria.

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

Table 5 shows that tourist arrivals from Europe went up by 18%, accounting for around two thirds of total tourist arrivals. France, our leading source market, recorded a growth of 16% to reach a figure of 138,740. Double digits growths were also registered in the case of the other major generating countries, namely Germany (+16%), and United Kingdom (+28%), while Italy registered an increase of 9%. The highest growth rate (i.e. +35%) was achieved by Switzerland, from 9,760 in 1999 to 13,180. Some minor markets as Austria (+9%) and Belgium (+12%) have also shown promising trends.

Tourist arrivals from Africa progressed by 4% during the period compared to the first nine months of 1999. This was mainly the result of growths in arrivals from the major generating countries Reunion Island (+3%) and Republic of South Africa (+4%). Trends in other African markets were as follows: Kenya (+10%), Malagasy Republic (-8%), Seychelles (+20%) and Zimbabwe (+40%).

An overall growth of 24% was noted in arrivals from Asia. This was mainly attributable to arrivals from India, our largest market in the continent, which grew by 28% to reach 13,310 during the period. Changes among other Asian sources were as follows: Japan (-0.3%), Malaysia (+2%) and Singapore (+9%).

Arrivals from Oceania went up by 7%, mainly as a result of an increase of 3% in arrivals from Australia.

A 30% increase in arrivals from America was the result of growth from USA (+7%), Canada (+12%) and other American countries (+159%).

2. Tourist Nights

Total tourist nights spent during the first nine months of 2000 is estimated at 4.7 million, representing an increase of 14% over the corresponding period of last year (Table 6). The average length of stay of a tourist works out to around 10 nights.

3. Hotel Statistics

At the end of September 2000, there was a total of 92 registered hotels in operation. The total room capacity for these registered hotels was 8,360 with 17,160 bedplaces (Table 7). The room occupancy rate for all hotels for the first nine months of 2000 averaged 69% while the bed occupancy rate was 61%.

“Large” hotels, i.e. well-established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms, numbered 33 (36% of all registered hotels). These "Large" hotels had a room capacity of 6,130 with 12,450 bedplaces, representing 73% of total room capacity and 73% of total bedplaces. The average room occupancy rate for these hotels for the first nine months of 2000 was of the order of 72% while bed occupancy rate averaged 64%.

4. Gross Tourism Receipts

Gross receipts from tourism for the first nine months of 2000 is estimated at Rs 10,200 million, i.e. an increase of 5% compared to Rs 9,740 million for the corresponding period of 1999. Quarterly figures of tourism receipts are given in Table 6.

5. Employment

Direct employment in travel and tourism establishments employing 10 persons or more is estimated at 18,570 at the end of March 2000, that is 9% higher than last year. Of this number, 13,270 or 71% were engaged in hotels (Table 9).

6. Forecast Year 2000

Based on the trends during the first nine months of year 2000 and patterns of previous years, the number of tourist arrivals for the year 2000 is estimated at 640,000, with gross receipts of the order of Rs 15,500 million.

Central Statistical Office

Ministry of Economic Development, Financial Services and Corporate Affairs

Port Louis

November 2000

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 1998 - 2000

Month	1998		1999		2000	
	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures
January	67,517	80,079	77,871	88,105	81,209	88,227
February	52,753	52,817	57,371	59,233	66,835	68,718
March	63,130	67,896	65,278	62,785	71,610	71,610
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>183,400</u>	<u>200,792</u>	<u>200,520</u>	<u>210,123</u>	<u>219,654</u>	<u>228,555</u>
April	60,745	60,376	58,456	63,173	74,386	72,319
May	56,977	59,203	54,703	52,609	65,261	64,174
June	43,904	42,384	51,604	51,034	55,850	57,364
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>161,626</u>	<u>161,963</u>	<u>164,763</u>	<u>166,816</u>	<u>195,497</u>	<u>193,857</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	<i>345,026</i>	<i>362,755</i>	<i>365,283</i>	<i>376,939</i>	<i>415,151</i>	<i>422,412</i>
July	56,918	47,300	61,520	51,412	72,579	58,928
August	73,980	80,635	76,587	80,516	80,378	88,587
September	52,789	53,822	55,333	55,202	62,100	64,646
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>183,687</u>	<u>181,757</u>	<u>193,440</u>	<u>187,130</u>	<u>215,057</u>	<u>212,161</u>
October	62,674	57,243	70,698	63,990		
November	68,394	69,975	73,541	73,674		
December	78,240	63,620	74,969	62,383		
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>209,308</u>	<u>190,838</u>	<u>219,208</u>	<u>200,047</u>		
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<i>392,995</i>	<i>372,595</i>	<i>412,648</i>	<i>387,177</i>		
Whole Year	738,021	735,350	777,931	764,116		

**Table 2 : - Departure of Mauritian residents by country of disembarkation,
January - September of 1999 and 2000**

Country of disembarkation	Jan - Sep 1999	Jan - Sep 2000	% Change
EUROPE	38,239	43,366	13.4
Belgium	678	1,797	165.0
France	18,278	20,261	10.8
Germany	1,268	1,813	43.0
Italy	2,259	2,879	27.4
Switzerland	1,476	1,797	21.7
United Kingdom	14,041	14,499	3.3
Other European	239	320	33.9
AFRICA	49,120	49,449	0.7
Kenya	1,303	949	-27.2
Malagasy Republic	3,892	4,619	18.7
Reunion	31,601	31,065	-1.7
Seychelles	2,693	2,564	-4.8
S. Africa, Rep. of	8,349	8,646	3.6
Zimbabwe	905	859	-5.1
Other African	377	747	98.1
ASIA	24,398	27,908	14.4
Hong Kong SAR*	1,632	2,827	73.2
India	8,811	9,616	9.1
Malaysia	1,687	3,047	80.6
Singapore	10,075	10,280	2.0
Saudi Arabia	2,028	2,122	4.6
Other Asian	165	16	-90.3
OCEANIA	2,492	3,463	39.0
Australia	2,490	3,463	39.1
Other Oceanian	2	-	-
AMERICA	111	115	3.6
U.S.A	22	17	-22.7
Canada	88	97	10.2
Other American	1	1	-
NOT STATED	2	523	-
All Countries	114,362	124,824	9.1

* *Special Administrative Region of China*

Table 5 : - Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, January - September of 1999 and 2000

Country of residence	2000												% Change 1999/2000
	2000												
	1999 Jan - Sep	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jan - Sep		
EUROPE	264,968	38,236	39,631	37,407	39,373	31,319	25,646	33,905	33,874	32,658	312,049	17.8	
Austria	5,923	840	1,054	876	769	654	574	658	488	596	6,509	9.9	
Belgium	6,648	827	751	1,076	1,168	535	713	800	625	963	7,458	12.2	
France	120,043	18,541	19,281	18,213	17,031	13,991	10,327	14,768	15,460	11,131	138,743	15.6	
Germany	31,809	4,542	4,219	4,671	5,385	3,134	3,732	3,479	3,182	4,590	36,934	16.1	
Italy	28,071	5,905	4,425	3,862	2,870	3,039	1,965	1,880	3,868	2,675	30,489	8.6	
Netherlands	3,032	249	431	409	441	253	306	672	278	563	3,602	18.8	
Spain	4,550	269	352	400	648	660	701	691	926	883	5,530	21.5	
Sweden	2,806	492	817	489	473	185	217	309	170	214	3,366	20.0	
Switzerland	9,756	1,849	1,850	1,474	2,079	1,182	833	1,610	754	1,547	13,178	35.1	
United Kingdom	42,397	3,002	4,469	4,569	6,962	6,783	5,217	7,750	7,093	8,197	54,042	27.5	
CIS	1,086	374	262	149	183	129	71	165	156	91	1,580	45.5	
Other European	8,847	1,346	1,720	1,219	1,364	774	990	1,123	874	1,208	10,618	20.0	
AFRICA	117,160	21,317	7,050	13,527	12,833	13,598	9,664	13,027	21,117	10,233	122,366	4.4	
Comoros	522	35	56	81	83	60	70	67	70	123	645	23.6	
Kenya	1,248	44	106	148	211	213	103	108	301	135	1,369	9.7	
Malagasy Rep.	5,674	625	580	520	748	571	445	591	705	460	5,245	-7.6	
Reunion	64,668	16,597	2,633	6,959	4,430	7,840	3,261	6,833	14,808	3,178	66,539	2.9	
Seychelles	5,078	468	434	465	1,029	577	767	609	934	827	6,110	20.3	
S/ Africa Rep. of	34,443	3,005	2,811	4,626	5,167	3,345	4,499	4,189	3,437	4,850	35,929	4.3	
Zimbabwe	1,689	151	135	231	604	241	200	167	404	225	2,358	39.6	
Other African	3,838	392	295	497	561	751	319	463	458	435	4,171	8.7	

Table 5 (contd.) : - Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, January - September of 1999 and 2000

Country of residence	2000												% Change 1999/2000
	1999 Jan - Sep	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jan - Sep		
ASIA	21,209	1,686	2,682	2,592	2,743	3,844	3,181	3,042	3,281	3,152	26,203	23.5	
Hong Kong SAR*	630	40	120	100	153	130	101	94	109	84	931	47.8	
India	10,409	648	997	1,270	1,397	2,355	1,818	1,511	1,776	1,536	13,308	27.9	
Japan	1,761	145	257	184	160	144	110	215	280	261	1,756	-0.3	
Malaysia	1,209	92	217	148	120	112	196	110	110	123	1,228	1.6	
P. Rep. of China	1,497	137	158	163	119	245	191	202	186	318	1,719	14.8	
Singapore	2,665	236	442	341	422	244	315	310	268	321	2,899	8.8	
Other Asian	3,038	388	491	386	372	614	450	600	552	509	4,362	43.6	
OCEANIA	6,097	443	447	642	741	637	840	788	852	1,145	6,535	7.2	
Australia	5,814	407	416	613	690	587	746	741	751	1,051	6,002	3.2	
Other Oceanian	283	36	31	29	51	50	94	47	101	94	533	88.3	
AMERICA	4,021	484	576	614	621	541	543	799	602	440	5,220	29.8	
USA	2,336	202	272	258	356	218	295	376	316	205	2,498	6.9	
Canada	1,117	111	110	121	121	120	158	261	149	98	1,249	11.8	
Other American	568	171	194	235	144	203	90	162	137	137	1,473	159.3	
OTHER & N-STATED	57	189	80	90	42	-	11	16	5	6	460	707.0	
All Countries	413,512	62,355	50,466	54,872	56,353	49,960	39,885	51,577	59,731	47,634	472,833	14.3	

* Special Administrative Region of China

Chart 1 - Monthly Distribution of Tourist Arrivals, January - September 1999 and 2000

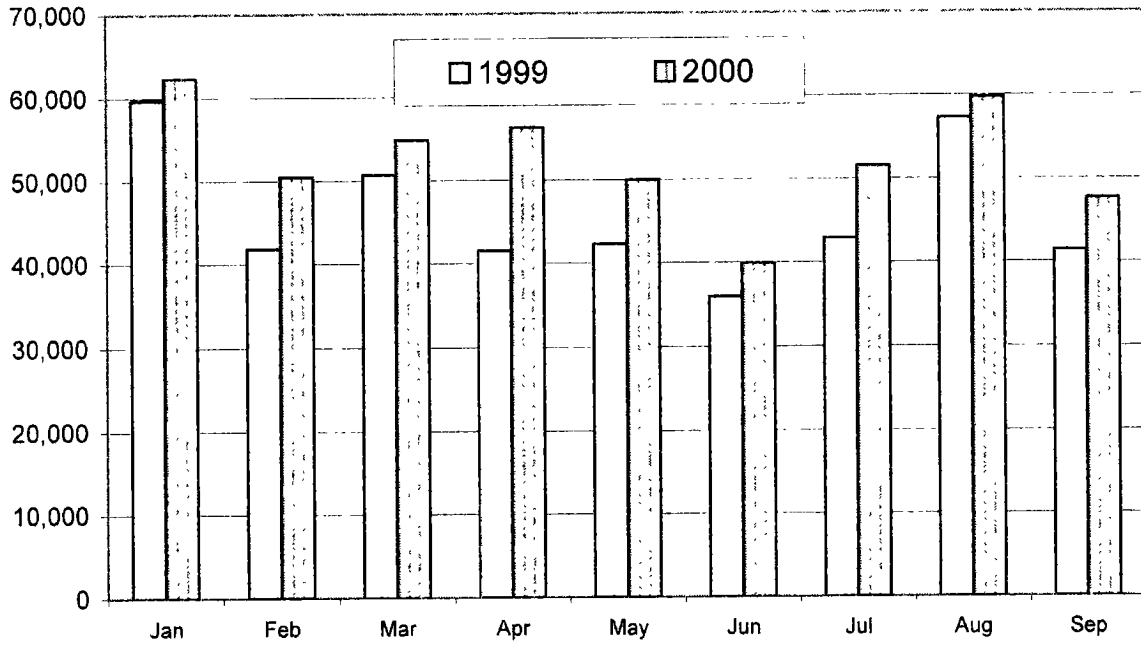


Chart 2 - Tourist Arrivals from Top Ten Markets, January - September of 1999 and 2000

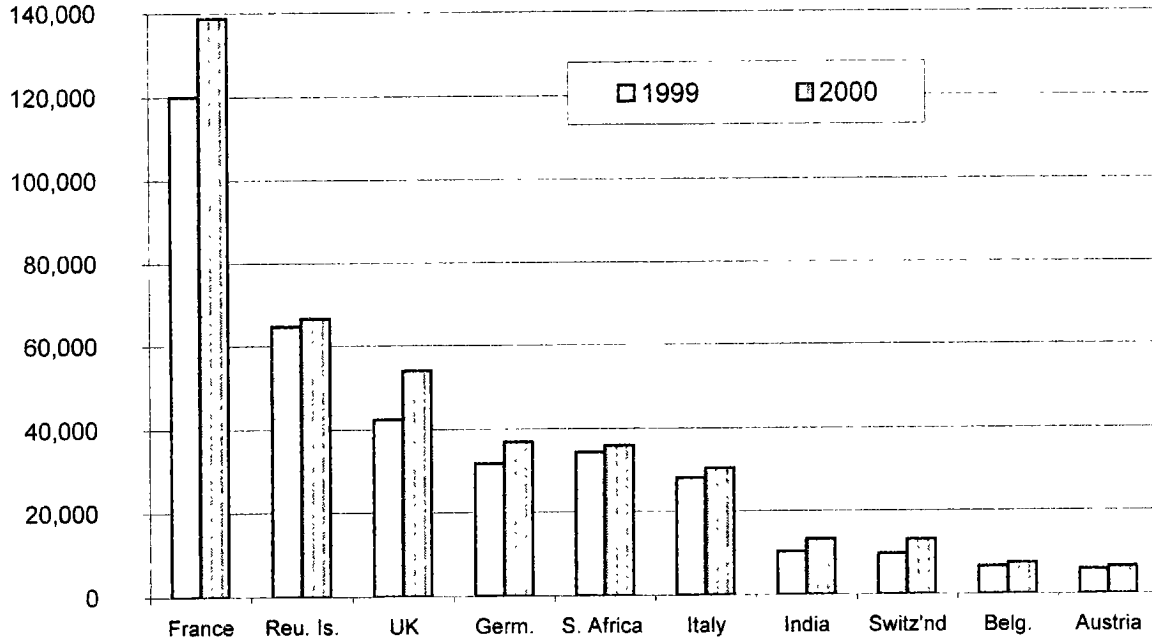


Table 6 :- Selected Tourism Statistics, 1997 - 2000

Year		Tourist arrivals (Number)	Tourist nights (000)	Tourism receipts ¹ (Rs million)
	1997	536,125	5,451	10,068
	1998	558,195	5,568	11,890
	1999	578,085	5,729	13,668
1998	1st Qr.	145,207	1,450	3,040
	2nd Qr.	119,610	1,192	2,528
	1st Semester	264,817	2,642	5,568
	3rd Qr.	134,579	1,340	2,714
	4th Qr.	158,799	1,586	3,608
	2nd Semester	293,378	2,926	6,322
1999	1st Qr.	152,246	1,510	3,543
	2nd Qr.	119,700	1,190	2,898
	1st Semester	271,946	2,700	6,441
	3rd Qr.	141,566	1,400	3,300
	4th Qr.	164,573	1,629	3,927
	2nd Semester	306,139	3,029	7,227
2000	1st Qr.	167,693	1,650	3,985 *
	2nd Qr.	146,198	1,450	3,132 *
	1st Semester	313,891	3,100	7,117 *
	3rd Qr.	158,942	1,580	3,085 *

* Provisional

¹ Source: Bank of Mauritius

Table 7:- Hotels, rooms and bedplaces, 1997 - 2000

Year	Number as at end of period			
	Hotels	Rooms	Bedplaces	
1997	87	6,809	14,126	
1998	90	7,267	14,995	
1999	92	8,255	16,947	
1998	1st Qr.	87	6,979	14,457
	2nd Qr.	88	7,039	14,569
	3rd Qr.	89	7,074	14,639
	4th Qr.	90	7,267	14,995
1999	1st Qr.	90	7,426	15,289
	2nd Qr.	89	7,365	15,167
	3rd Qr.	91	7,903	16,243
	4th Qr.	92	8,255	16,947
2000	1st Qr.	92	8,269	16,975
	2nd Qr.	92	8,307	17,048
	3rd Qr.	92	8,362	17,158

Table 8 :- Monthly Occupancy Rates (%) for All Hotels and "Large" Hotels, 1998- 2000

Month	All Hotels						"Large" Hotels					
	1998		1999		2000*		1998		1999		2000*	
	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed
January	84	74	79	69	73	64	89	78	83	74	75	67
February	79	69	73	64	74	65	83	73	77	68	77	68
March	73	63	71	62	71	62	78	69	76	67	72	64
<u>1st Quarter</u>	79	68	75	65	72	64	83	73	79	70	75	66
April	70	61	68	59	73	64	75	66	74	65	78	69
May	67	59	67	59	67	59	71	63	73	64	71	63
June	50	44	60	52	59	52	55	48	64	56	63	56
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	62	55	65	57	66	58	67	59	70	62	71	63
<u>1st Semester</u>	71	62	70	61	70	61	75	66	75	66	73	65
July	59	51	65	57	61	54	64	56	70	62	64	57
August	74	65	73	63	72	63	77	68	74	66	74	65
September	75	65	73	64	73	64	82	72	77	68	77	68
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	70	61	70	61	69	60	74	65	74	65	72	64
October	78	69	77	68	77	68	83	74	83	73	77	68
November	84	73	83	73	83	73	87	77	88	78	77	68
December	71	62	61	54	61	64	74	65	62	55	62	68
<u>4th Quarter</u>	78	68	74	64	74	64	82	72	77	68	77	68
<u>2nd Semester</u>	73	64	72	63	72	63	78	69	75	67	75	67
Whole Year	72	63	71	62			77	68	75	67		

* Provisional

Table 9 :- Employment in the tourist industry as at end of March, 1996 - 2000

Year	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Establishments					
Restaurants	1,154	1,118	1,389	1,288	1,134
Hotels	9,666	10,575	11,177	11,715	13,267
Travel and Tourism	3,596	3,732	3,924	4,108	4,170
Total	14,416	15,425	16,490	17,111	18,571

Source: Survey of Employment and Earnings in large Establishments (March 2000).

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