

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURISM

1st Semester 2002

1. Passenger Traffic

1.1 Total Passenger Traffic

Passenger traffic for the first semester of 2002 totalled to 859,821, consisting of 421,377 arrivals and 438,444 departures. Compared to data for the same period of the preceding year, these figures represent increases of 2.9% and 3.4% in arrivals and departures respectively. Movements by sea accounted for 5.6% of both arrivals and departures. Further details on monthly trends are given in Table 1.

1.2 Excursionists

Total arrivals by air included 3,879 “excursionists”, i.e. visitors arriving and leaving on the same day. Of these excursionists, 1,218 (31.4%) came from Reunion Island and 806 (20.8%) from France. Total arrivals by sea included 15,002 “cruise excursionists” (8,589 passengers and 6,413 crews) aboard 18 cruise ships, which visited our port during the first half of 2002.

1.3 Mauritian Residents

The number of Mauritian residents travelling abroad during the above period went down by 3.1% to stand at 72,165, against 74,463 for the same period in 2001. The following changes were observed in the number of Mauritians visiting the major destinations: Hong Kong (+38.0%), Republic of South Africa (+29.2%), Australia (+15.1%), France (+4.7%), United Kingdom (+4.5%), Singapore (+1.7%), Reunion Island (-12.7%), India (-15.4%), Saudi Arabia (-26.6%), Malaysia (-40.8%) and Malagasy Republic (-59.7%). Table 2 shows a more detailed distribution of countries visited.

1.4 Tourist Arrivals

Tourist arrivals for the first semester rose by 2.2%, from 315,789 in 2001 to 322,707 in 2002. 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/conference trips, and another 3% were in transit (Table 4).

Arrivals from Europe, which accounts for over two thirds (67.7%) of total tourist arrivals, grew by 3.6% to 218,596 during the first semester of 2002 against 210,980 in the same period of 2001. Arrivals from France, our leading market, increased by 1.7% to attain 100,408 at the end of June 2002, representing 31.1% of total tourist arrivals and 45.9% of the European market. Growths were also noted in arrivals from the other major generating countries, namely Germany (+11.5%) and United Kingdom (+5.6%). On the other hand, arrivals from Italy registered a drop of 1.7%. Trends among the other countries were as follows: Spain (+25.7%), Netherlands (+8.1%), Austria (+1.3%), Belgium (+0.6%), Switzerland (-13.5%) and Sweden (-15.3%).

For the first semester of 2002, arrivals from Africa, with a share of 24.4% of total tourist arrivals, went up by 2.4% to 78,855. Arrivals from Reunion Island, the major market of the region, increased by 4.1% while those from Republic of South Africa dropped by 10.4%. Changes in arrivals from other African countries were as follows: Seychelles (+52.2%), Kenya (+25.0%), Zimbabwe(+15.1%), Malagasy Republic(+13.9%) and Comoros (-11.3%).

Tourist arrivals from the Asian market regressed by 6.2% for the period under review and constituted 5.6% of total tourist arrivals. Arrivals from India, our major source on this continent, went down by 3.2% to reach 9,778. The performance of other Asian countries was as follows: United Arab Emirates (+454.8%), Japan (+11.2%), Singapore (-15.6%), People's Republic of China (-17.0%), Hong Kong (-18.7%) and Malaysia (-22.9%).

Arrivals from Oceania fell by 11.1% due largely to a decline of 10.6% in arrivals from Australia.

Arrivals from the continent of America decreased by 20.6%, as a result of decreases from Canada (-12.8%), USA (-8.9%), and other American countries (-43.7%).

2. Tourist Nights

Total tourist nights spent in the country during the first semester of 2002 is estimated at 3.2 million, which is an increase of 2.1% over the corresponding period of 2001.

3. Hotel Statistics

At the end of June 2002, there were 89 registered hotels in operation. Owing to renovation, five registered hotels were not operational and another one was partly operational. The total room capacity for these registered hotels in operation was 8,136 with 16,588 bed places (Table 7). The room occupancy rate for all hotels for the first semester of 2002 averaged 66% while the bed occupancy rate was 59% (Table 8).

“Large” hotels, i.e. well-established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms, numbered 31 (around 35% of all registered hotels). These "Large" hotels had a room capacity of 5,783 with 11,681 bedplaces, representing 71.1% of total room capacity and 70.4% of total bedplaces. The average room occupancy rate for these hotels for the first semester of 2002 was of the order of 71% while bed occupancy rate averaged 64% (Table 8).

4. Gross Tourism Receipts

Data from the Bank of Mauritius indicate that gross tourism receipts for the first semester of 2002 were of the order of Rs 9,288 million, i.e. an increase of 10.5% compared to Rs 8,409 million for the corresponding period of 2001. The average receipt per tourist during that period was Rs 28,782 against Rs 26,629 in 2001 (Table 6).

5. Employment

According to the Survey of Employment and Earnings, direct employment in travel and tourism establishments employing 10 persons or more stood at 21,100 at the end of March 2002, that is 5.8 % higher than the previous year. Of this number, 75.3% or 15,880 were engaged in hotels (Table 9).

6. Forecast Year 2002

Based on data available up to March 2002, the number of tourist arrivals for year 2002 was previously forecast at around 695,000. Although actual arrivals for the second quarter were below expectations, this forecast is maintained in view of the three additional weekly flights to Dubai as from September, and the increase in room capacity following renovation of certain hotels.

Central Statistics Office

Ministry of Economic Development, Financial Services and Corporate Affairs.

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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 **C**ommonwealth of **I**ndependent **S**tates, which consists of the states of the former Soviet Union.

Table 1:- Passenger Traffic by month, 2000 - 2002

Month	2000		2001		2002	
	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures
January	81,209	88,227	83,006	96,568	82,203	98,297
February	66,835	68,718	62,662	63,034	63,657	63,562
March	71,630	71,610	73,365	74,278	89,745	86,466
1st Quarter	219,674	228,555	219,033	233,880	235,605	248,325
April	74,386	72,319	70,185	68,642	63,961	69,431
May	65,261	64,174	65,600	69,705	67,030	69,414
June	55,850	57,364	54,696	51,854	54,781	51,274
2nd Quarter	195,497	193,857	190,481	190,201	185,772	190,119
1st Semester	415,171	422,412	409,514	424,081	421,377	438,444
July	72,579	58,928	77,552	63,875		
August	80,378	88,587	72,980	83,574		
September	62,100	64,646	63,876	66,230		
3rd Quarter	215,057	212,161	214,408	213,679		
October	76,488	66,158	73,660	70,007		
November	73,915	78,612	72,147	70,362		
December	84,591	66,696	88,453	72,167		
4th Quarter	234,994	211,466	234,260	212,536		
2nd Semester	450,051	423,627	448,668	426,215		
Whole Year	865,222	846,039	858,182	850,296		

**Table 2 : - Departure of Mauritian residents by country of disembarkation,
January - June of 2001 and 2002**

Country of disembarkation	Jan - June 2001	Jan - June 2002	% Change
EUROPE	22,183	23,225	4.7
Belgium	147	257	74.8
France	9,833	10,292	4.7
Germany	868	847	-2.4
Italy	1,134	1,254	10.6
Switzerland	995	935	-6.0
United Kingdom	9,166	9,580	4.5
Other European	40	60	50.0
AFRICA	31,064	28,298	-8.9
Kenya	110	554	403.6
Malagasy Republic	3,248	1,308	-59.7
Reunion	19,631	17,129	-12.7
Seychelles	1,444	1,586	9.8
S. Africa, Rep. of	5,619	7,257	29.2
Zimbabwe	485	356	-26.6
Other African	527	108	-79.5
ASIA	18,529	17,860	-3.6
Hong Kong SAR*	2,316	3,197	38.0
India	7,373	6,236	-15.4
Malaysia	1,817	1,076	-40.8
Singapore	5,057	5,145	1.7
Saudi Arabia	1,934	1,419	-26.6
Other Asian	32	787	2,359.4
OCEANIA	2,064	2,375	15.1
Australia	2,063	2,375	15.1
Other Oceanian	1	0	-
AMERICA	39	12	-69.2
U.S.A	5	2	-60.0
Canada	34	10	-70.6
Other American	-	0	-
NOT STATED	584	395	-32.4
All Countries	74,463	72,165	-3.1

* Special Administrative Region of China

Table 3:- Tourist arrivals by month, 2000 - 2002

Month	Number		
	2000	2001	2002*
January	62,355	65,122	63,551
February	50,466	49,464	50,554
March	54,872	55,944	67,554
<i>1st Quarter</i>	<u>167,693</u>	<u>170,530</u>	<u>181,659</u>
April	56,353	54,794	48,187
May	49,960	51,969	53,813
June	39,885	38,496	39,048
<i>2nd Quarter</i>	<u>146,198</u>	<u>145,259</u>	<u>141,048</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	313,891	315,789	322,707
July	51,577	57,274	
August	59,731	52,923	
September	47,634	48,953	
<i>3rd Quarter</i>	<u>158,942</u>	<u>159,150</u>	
October	61,526	59,325	
November	57,334	57,326	
December	64,760	68,728	
<i>4th Quarter</i>	<u>183,620</u>	<u>185,379</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	342,562	344,529	
Whole Year	656,453	660,318	

* Provisional

**Table 4 :- Tourist arrivals by main purpose of visit,
January-June of 2001 and 2002**

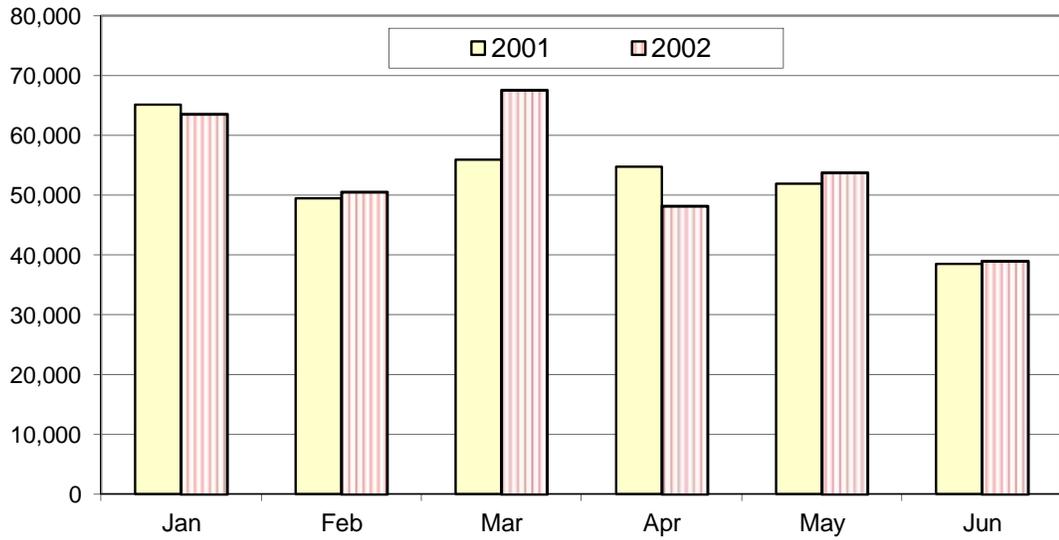
Purpose of visit	Jan - June 2001	Jan - June 2002	% Change
Holiday	288,489	294,139	2.0
Business	11,736	11,253	-4.1
Transit	9,347	11,049	18.2
Conference	1,771	2,128	20.2
Sports	572	520	-9.1
Other & Not Stated	3,874	3,618	-6.6
Total	315,789	322,707	2.2

Table 5 : - Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, January - June of 2001 and 2002

Country of residence	Jan-June 2001	2002 ¹							% Change 2002/01
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jan-June	
EUROPE	210,980	39,501	40,004	47,331	34,224	32,330	25,206	218,596	3.6
Austria	4,509	865	991	982	695	616	419	4,568	1.3
Belgium	5,003	712	811	992	956	855	706	5,032	0.6
France	98,725	19,356	18,831	21,779	14,987	15,531	9,924	100,408	1.7
Germany	24,875	5,463	5,103	6,449	3,817	3,879	3,036	27,747	11.5
Italy	20,138	4,058	3,863	3,863	3,928	2,221	1,859	19,792	-1.7
Netherlands	2,088	301	372	436	539	281	329	2,258	8.1
Spain	2,724	208	519	765	436	675	822	3,425	25.7
Sweden	2,765	452	628	640	279	161	181	2,341	-15.3
Switzerland	8,570	1,326	1,508	1,706	1,280	831	763	7,414	-13.5
United Kingdom	32,422	4,262	5,253	6,805	5,990	5,967	5,971	34,248	5.6
CIS	1,292	733	175	309	283	368	87	1,955	51.3
Other European	7,869	1,765	1,950	2,605	1,034	945	1,109	9,408	19.6
AFRICA	77,030	21,068	6,587	15,996	10,352	16,254	8,598	78,855	2.4
Comoros	424	51	34	45	64	92	90	376	-11.3
Kenya	637	213	140	90	124	126	103	796	25.0
Malagasy Rep.	3,130	329	431	528	793	730	753	3,564	13.9
Reunion	42,312	15,864	2,641	9,041	3,440	10,375	2,695	44,056	4.1
Seychelles	3,870	688	691	939	1,242	1,123	1,208	5,891	52.2
S/ Africa Rep. of	22,480	3,361	2,110	4,500	3,833	3,111	3,230	20,145	-10.4
Zimbabwe	1,647	229	229	480	482	283	192	1,895	15.1
Other African	2,530	333	311	373	374	414	327	2,132	-15.7
ASIA	19,347	1,856	2,905	2,948	2,465	4,023	3,950	18,147	-6.2
Hong Kong SAR ²	803	91	218	115	77	74	78	653	-18.7
India	10,098	855	1,142	1,463	1,187	2,669	2,462	9,778	-3.2
Japan	785	69	386	146	134	62	76	873	11.2
Malaysia	1,229	108	204	150	125	174	187	948	-22.9
P. Rep. of China	1,821	272	273	240	328	183	215	1,511	-17.0
Singapore	1,848	149	245	272	171	318	405	1,560	-15.6
United Arab Emirates	42	9	59	47	37	34	47	233	454.8
Other Asian	2,721	303	378	515	406	509	480	2,591	-4.8
OCEANIA	4,125	573	553	622	701	600	618	3,667	-11.1
Australia	3,832	543	503	596	665	534	585	3,426	-10.6
Other Oceanian	293	30	50	26	36	66	33	241	-17.7
AMERICA	4,253	546	497	645	444	580	665	3,377	-20.6
USA	2,035	286	291	362	252	281	382	1,854	-8.9
Canada	885	113	121	137	101	145	155	772	-12.8
Other American	1,333	147	85	146	91	154	128	751	-43.7
OTHER & N.STATED	54	7	8	12	1	26	11	65	20.4
All Countries	315,789	63,551	50,554	67,554	48,187	53,813	39,048	322,707	2.2

¹ Provisional² Special Administrative Region of China

**Chart 1 - Monthly Distribution of Tourist Arrivals,
January - June of 2001 and 2002**



**Chart 2 - Tourist Arrivals from Top Ten Markets,
January - June of 2001 and 2002**

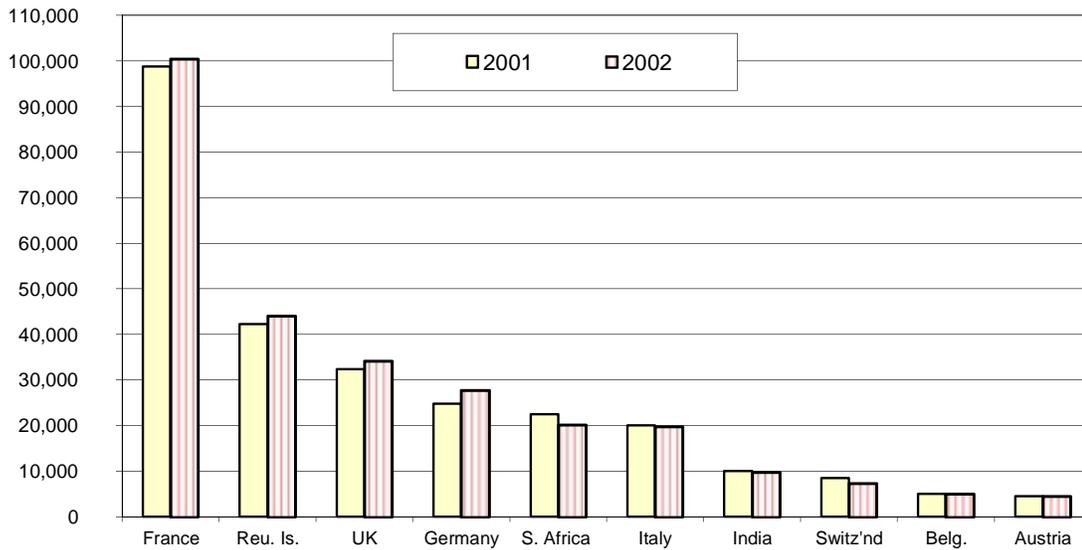


Table 6 :- Selected Tourism Statistics, 1999 - 2002

Year		Tourist arrivals (Number)	Tourist nights (000)	Tourism receipts ¹ (Rs million)
	1999	578,085	5,729	13,668
	2000	656,453	6,500	14,234
	2001	660,318	6,528	18,166
2000	1st Qr.	167,693	1,628	3,985
	2nd Qr.	146,198	1,431	3,132
	1st Semester	313,891	3,059	7,117
	3rd Qr.	158,942	1,559	3,085
	4th Qr.	183,620	1,795	4,032
	2nd Semester	342,562	3,354	7,117
2001	1st Qr.	170,530	1,682	4,584
	2nd Qr.	145,259	1,442	3,825
	1st Semester	315,789	3,124	8,409
	3rd Qr.	159,150	1,572	4,460
	4th Qr.	185,379	1,832	5,297
	2nd Semester	344,529	3,404	9,757
2002*	1st Qr.	181,659	1,790	5,005
	2nd Qr.	141,048	1,400	4,283
	1st Semester	322,707	3,190	9,288

* Provisional

¹ Source: Bank of Mauritius**Table 7:- Hotels, rooms and bedplaces, 1999 - 2002**

Year	Number as at end of period			
	Hotels	Rooms	Bedplaces	
1999	92	8,255	16,947	
2000	95	8,657	17,776	
2001	95	9,024	18,350	
2000	1st Qr.	92	8,269	16,975
	2nd Qr.	92	8,307	17,048
	3rd Qr.	93	8,388	17,238
	4th Qr.	95	8,657	17,776
2001	1st Qr.	95	8,667	17,796
	2nd Qr.	95	8,715	17,972
	3rd Qr.	95	8,640	17,718
	4th Qr.	95	9,024	18,350
2002 ¹	1st Qr.	94	8,770	17,846
	2nd Qr.	89 ²	8,136	16,588

¹ Provisional² Excluding five hotels not operational and another one partly operational because of renovation works.

Table 8 :- Monthly Occupancy Rates (%) for All Hotels and "Large" Hotels, 2000 - 2002

Month	All Hotels						"Large" Hotels					
	2000		2001		2002*		2000		2001		2002*	
	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed
January	73	64	74	65	71	63	75	67	78	69	76	68
February	73	64	67	59	69	62	77	68	70	63	74	66
March	71	62	68	60	75	66	72	64	72	64	81	72
1st Quarter	<u>72</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>69</u>
April	73	64	66	57	62	56	77	68	70	62	68	61
May	67	58	64	56	67	59	71	63	68	61	73	65
June	58	51	50	43	50	45	62	55	51	46	53	47
2nd Quarter	<u>66</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>58</u>
1st Semester	<i>69</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>64</i>
July	61	53	55	48			64	57	57	51		
August	71	62	62	55			73	65	65	58		
September	73	64	68	60			76	67	74	66		
3rd Quarter	<u>68</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>55</u>			<u>71</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>59</u>		
October	77	67	70	62			79	70	76	67		
November	80	70	73	64			83	74	78	70		
December	69	60	69	61			71	63	72	64		
4th Quarter	<u>75</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>62</u>			<u>78</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>67</u>		
2nd Semester	<i>72</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>58</i>			<i>74</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>63</i>		
Whole Year	70	62	66	58			73	65	70	62		

* Provisional

Table 9 :- Employment in the tourist industry as at end of March, 1998 - 2002

Year Establishments	1998	1999¹	2000¹	2001	2002²
Restaurants	1,389	1,168	1,256	1,269	1,250
Hotels	11,177	11,835	13,239	15,023	15,880
Travel and Tourism	3,924	3,232	3,316	3,652	3,970
Total	16,490	16,235	17,811	19,944	21,100

¹ Revised in the light of new classification based on International Standard Industrial Classification Rev. 3

² Provisional

Source: Survey of Employment and Earnings in large Establishments

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