INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURISM

Year 2006

1. Passenger Traffic

1.1 Total Passenger Traffic

Passenger traffic for the year 2006 totalled 2,021,570 made up of 1,016,864 arrivals and 1,004,706 departures. Compared to the year 2005, these figures represent increases of 2.7% in arrivals and 2.9% in departures. Movements by sea accounted for 2.4% of arrivals and 2.3% of departures. Further details on monthly trends are given in Table 1.

1.2 Excursionists

Total arrivals by air included 10,222 "excursionists", i.e. visitors arriving and leaving on the same day. Of these excursionists, 3,163 (30.9%) came from Reunion Island and 2,548 (24.9%), from France. Total arrivals by sea included 11,651 "cruise excursionists" (6,785 passengers and 4,866 crews) aboard 21 cruise ships, which visited our port in 2006.

1.3 Mauritian Residents

During the period under review, the number of Mauritian residents travelling abroad rose by 1.6% to stand at 185,770 compared to 182,923 for 2005 and accounted for 18.5 % of total departures (Table 2). The following changes were observed in the number of Mauritians visiting the major destinations: United Arab Emirates (+18.4%), France (+12.9%), Australia (+12.9%), India (+7.5%), Hong Kong (+6.5), Singapore (+1.8%), Seychelles (+1.0%), Republic of South Africa (-1.6%), United Kingdom (-2.0%), Italy (-4.9%), Malagasy Republic (-7.2%) and Reunion Island (-11.1%).

Chart 1 shows the percentage distribution of Mauritian departures by major destination for 2005 and 2006.

Chart 1 - Percentage distribution of Mauritian departures by major destination, 2005 and 2006

1.4 Tourist Arrivals

Tourist arrivals grew by 3.6% from 761,063 in 2005 to 788,276 in 2006. Chart 2 shows monthly tourist arrivals for 2005 and 2006. Further details on tourist arrivals are given in Tables 3 to 6.

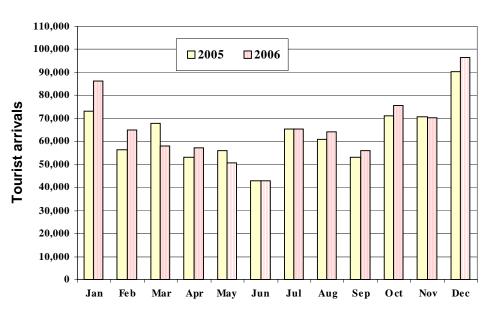


Chart 2 - Monthly Tourist Arrivals, 2005 and 2006

Around 90% of the tourists came for holidays while 4.1% were on business/conference trips and another 3.8% were in transit (Table 4).

Arrivals from Europe, which accounted for 64.8% of total tourist arrivals, increased by 1.5% to 510,479 in 2006 against 502,715 in 2005. Arrivals from France, our leading market representing 23% of total tourist arrivals and 36% of the European market, fell by 17.3% to attain 182,295. On the other hand, growths were recorded in arrivals from the other major generating countries: Italy (+59.7%), the United Kingdom (+7.3%) and Germany (+2.3%). Among the other European countries, the following trend was observed: Sweden (+50.9%), CIS (+28.0%), Spain (+13.7%), Netherlands (+8.1%), Switzerland (+2.5%), Belgium (+2.7%) and Austria (+0.4%).

In 2006, arrivals from Africa, with a share of 24% of total tourist arrivals, registered a growth of 2.3% to reach 189,458, compared to 185,208 in 2005. With regards to performance of the major markets of the region, arrivals from the Republic of South Africa went up by 21.1% whilst those from Reunion Island fell by 10.0%. Changes in arrivals from other African countries were as follows: Kenya (+24.7%), Seychelles (+19.2%), Malagasy Republic (-2.1%), Comoros (-29.8%) and Zimbabwe (-34.4%).

Tourist arrivals from the Asian market, which constituted 8% of the total, were up by 22.2% to reach 60,121 in 2006. Arrivals from India, our major source on this continent, grew by 26.0% to attain 37,498. The performance of other Asian countries was as follows: Malaysia (+56.3%), United Arab Emirates (+41.1%), Singapore (+4.1%), Japan (+3.5%), Hong Kong (+2.2%) and People's Republic of China (-11.8%).

Arrivals from Oceania rose by 22.7% to 17,704, due mainly to an increase of 23.5% in arrivals from Australia.

Arrivals from the continent of America increased by 10.6% to reach 9,787. This was explained by increases in arrivals of 6.7% from USA, 8.4% from Canada and 23.2% from other American countries.

Tourist arrivals from top ten markets for the year 2005 and 2006 are given in Chart 3.

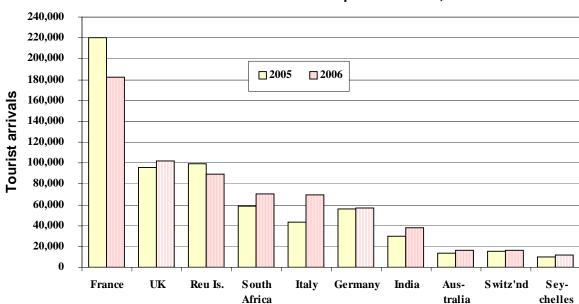


Chart 3 - Tourist Arrivals from Top Ten Markets, 2005 and 2006

2. Tourist Nights

Total tourist nights spent in the country in 2006 is estimated at 7.8 million, up by 4.5% over the preceding year (Table 6).

3. Hotel Statistics

At the end of December 2006, there was a total of 98 registered hotels in operation. Owing to renovation, four hotels were not operational. The total room capacity for these registered hotels in operation was 10,666 with 21,403 bed places (Table 7). The room occupancy rate for all hotels for the year 2006 averaged 66% while the bed occupancy rate was 59% (Table 8).

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"Large" hotels, i.e. well-established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms, numbered 42 (43% of all registered hotels in operation). These "Large" hotels had a room capacity of 8,064 with 16,203 bedplaces, representing 75.6% of total room capacity and 75.7% of total bedplaces. The average room occupancy rate for these hotels for the year 2006 was 69% while bed occupancy rate averaged 62% (Table 8).

4. Gross Tourism Receipts

Data from the Bank of Mauritius indicate that gross tourism receipts for the year 2006 amounted to Rs 31,942 million, showing an increase of 24.3% compared to the figure of Rs 25,704 million for 2005 (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 25,798 at the end of March 2006, that is 1.7% higher than the previous year. Of this number, 76% or 19,500 were engaged in hotels (Table 9).

6. Forecast Year 2007

Taking in consideration market diversification, liberalization of air access and increased seat capacity on the national airline with the acquisition of an aircraft in December 2006 and another one in 2007, it is expected that tourist arrivals for the year 2007 would be around 850,000, representing a growth of 7.8%.

According to the Bank of Mauritius tourism receipts for 2007 will be around Rs 35,900 million (+ 12.4 %) compared to Rs 31,942 million in 2006.

Central Statistics Office

Ministry of Finance and Economic Development

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DEFINITION AND 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. Occupancy rate

The room/bed occupancy rate is the ratio of room/bed nights rented to the total number of room/bed nights available.

= <u>Total number of room/bed nights rented</u> x 100 Total number of room/bed nights available

7. CIS

CIS denotes the Commonwealth of Independent States. It consists of the States of the former Soviet Union.

Table 1 :- Passenger Traffic ¹ by month, 2004 - 2006

Month	2	004	2	005	20)06	
	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	
January	86,669	106,951	93,809	110,249	108,932	124,313	
February	69,256	63,267	71,350	69,084	80,202	80,796	
March	82,050	78,071	85,353	85,395	74,574	83,160	
1st Quarter	237,975	248,289	250,512	264,728	263,708	288,269	
April	72,901	66,782	71,302	73,753	74,092	72,052	
May	69,183	71,206	73,111	75,814	65,979	69,023	
June	54,924	56,167	61,487	55,736	60,396	56,460	
2nd Quarter	197,008	194,155	205,900	205,303	200,467	197,535	
1st Semester	434,983	442,444	456,412	470,031	464,175	485,804	
July	84,223	68,707	88,752	73,586	90,862	76,408	
August	77,716	88,594	83,314	94,535	86,128	94,927	
September	69,018	70,521	70,784	74,767	73,157	75,222	
3rd Quarter	230,957	227,822	242,850	242,888	250,147	246,557	
Jan. to Sep.	665,940	670,266	699,262	712,919	714,322	732,361	
October	87,848	81,795	87,365	84,467	91,891	85,930	
November	83,404	83,236	88,491	85,783	89,668	88,779	
December	102,523	83,163	114,795	92,963	120,983	97,636	
4th Quarter	273,775	248,194	290,651	263,213	302,542	272,345	
2nd Semester	504,732	476,016	533,501	506,101	552,689	518,902	
Whole Year	939,715	918,460	989,913	976,132	1,016,864	1,004,706	

¹ Excluding inter islands traffic

Table 2 :- Departure of Mauritian residents by country of disembarkation, 2005 - 2006

Country of disembarkation	2005	2006	% Change
EUROPE	66,005	68,962	4.5
Belgium	26	20	-23.1
France	26,840	30,299	12.9
Germany	2,121	2,151	1.4
Italy	3,643	3,464	-4.9
Switzerland	1,581	2,255	42.6
United Kingdom	31,342	30,715	-2.0
Other European	452	58	-87.2
AFRICA	57,400	54,210	-5.6
Malagasy Republic	7,710	7,154	-7.2
Reunion	29,994	26,661	-11.1
Seychelles	5,880	5,939	1.0
S. Africa, Rep. of	13,384	13,167	-1.6
Zimbabwe	356	81	-77.2
Other African	76	1,208	1,489.5
ASIA	52,203	54,447	4.3
Hong Kong SAR ¹	9,746	10,379	6.5
India	17,979	19,321	7.5
Malaysia	871	951	9.2
Singapore	9,417	9,584	1.8
Saudi Arabia	3,257	1,383	-57.5
United Arab Emirates	10,818	12,813	18.4
Other Asian	115	16	-86.1
OCEANIA	7,002	7,904	12.9
Australia	7,000	7,904	12.9
Other Oceanian	2	-	-100.0
AMERICA	73	37	-49.3
U.S.A	14	13	-7.1
Canada	58	24	-58.6
Other American	1	-	-100.0
NOT STATED	240	210	-12.5
All Countries	182,923	185,770	1.6

¹ Special Administrative Region of China

Table 3:- Tourist arrivals by month, 2004 - 2006

Month		Number	
Wionui	2004	2005	2006 1
January	66,543	73,053	86,218
February	54,104	56,367	64,894
March	63,631	67,931	58,136
1st Quarter	<u>184,278</u>	<u>197,351</u>	<u>209,248</u>
April	55,599	52,971	57,361
May	53,974	55,995	50,773
June	38,826	42,994	42,755
2nd Quarter	148,399	<u>151,960</u>	<u>150,889</u>
1st Semester	332,677	349,311	360,137
July	62,173	65,462	65,540
August	55,342	60,746	64,307
September	53,102	53,233	56,138
3rd Quarter	<u>170,617</u>	<u>179,441</u>	<u>185,985</u>
Jan. to Sep.	503,294	528,752	546,122
October	70,793	70,999	75,451
November	66,960	70,793	70,394
December	77,814	90,519	96,309
4th Quarter	<u>215,567</u>	<u>232,311</u>	<u>242,154</u>
2nd Semester	386,184	411,752	428,139
Whole Year	718,861	761,063	788,276

¹ Provisional

Table 4:- Tourist arrivals by main purpose of visit, 2005 - 2006

Purpose of visit	2005	2006 1	% Change
Holiday	692,084	712,620	3.0
Business	24,621	27,097	10.1
Transit	27,790	29,590	6.5
Conference	5,543	5,414	-2.3
Sports	1,372	2,515	83.3
Other & Not Stated	9,653	11,040	14.4
Total	761,063	788,276	3.6

¹ Provisional

Table 5:- Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, 2005 - 2006

Country of	Year							2006 1							% Change
residence	2005	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year	2006/2005
EUROPE	502,715	56,629	50,950	37,836	36,326	26,720	23,287	38,546	39,179	36,188	51,083	53,364	60,371	510,479	1.5
Austria	10,440	1,311	1,615	945	761	570	369	587	429	457	844	1,374	1,221	10,483	0.4
Belgium	8,973	744	629	545	653	490	555	940	679	896	1,156	834	1,095	9,216	2.7
France	220,421	26,467	20,507	12,871	9,924	8,497	5,908	14,050	11,596	9,129	17,907	20,813	24,626	182,295	-17.3
Germany	55,983	6,043	5,387	4,405	4,747	3,309	2,946	3,462	4,134	4,964	5,694	6,795	5,365	57,251	2.3
Italy	43,458	8,415	7,824	7,270	5,374	2,688	2,984	3,299	7,286	4,480	5,359	5,037	9,391	69,407	59.7
Netherlands	5,111	356	404	306	284	399	303	733	494	607	668	488	483	5,525	8.1
Spain	9,682	332	400	549	690	753	1,076	1,033	1,537	1,741	1,432	736	733	11,012	13.7
Sweden	4,224	553	714	344	303	135	126	140	85	155	658	1,597	1,564	6,374	50.9
Switzerland	15,773	1,472	1,506	822	1,388	756	544	972	677	1,538	2,103	2,334	2,049	16,161	2.5
United Kingdom	95,407	5,688	6,830	6,968	9,231	7,383	6,648	10,667	9,695	9,450	11,624	9,193	8,956	102,333	7.3
CIS ²	5,641	1,296	462	681	641	457	241	241	392	438	653	644	1,073	7,219	28.0
Other European	27,602	3,952	4,672	2,130	2,330	1,283	1,587	2,422	2,175	2,333	2,985	3,519	3,815	33,203	20.3
AFRICA	185,208	23,699	8,289	14,158	14,807	14,203	10,301	18,414	17,630	12,431	16,082	10,964	28,480	189,458	2.3
Comoros	1,166	45	65	65	67	109	61	64	83	72	71	42	75	819	-29.8
Kenya	1,358	63	96	105	215	120	158	140	191	95	106	103	302	1,694	24.7
Malagasy Rep.	7,397	481	476	532	521	603	464	790	842	579	620	584	747	7,239	-2.1
Reunion	99,036	17,177	2,797	6,814	4,126	7,153	2,657	10,338	8,773	3,364	9,072	3,966	12,890	89,127	-10.0
Seychelles	10,084	650	452	882	913	831	1,175	1,046	1,296	830	1,022	1,294	1,632	12,023	19.2
S. Africa, Rep. of	58,446	4,973	4,023	5,366	8,015	4,571	5,389	5,307	5,275	7,014	4,686	4,236	11,941	70,796	21.1
Zimbabwe	2,419	48	53	41	377	183	38	102	226	55	98	116	250	1,587	-34.4
Other African	5,302	262	327	353	573	633	359	627	944	422	407	623	643	6,173	16.4

¹ Provisional

² Commonwealth of Independent States (Ex Soviet Union Countries)

Table 5 (contd.) :- Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, 2005 - 2006

Country of	Year							2006 1							% Change
residence	2005	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year	2006/2005
ASIA	49,202	3,798	4,094	4,150	3,993	7,511	6,748	5,661	5,103	4,746	5,467	4,069	4,781	60,121	22.2
Hong Kong SAR ³	508	40	33	28	32	60	48	51	37	30	31	61	68	519	2.2
India	29,755	1,949	2,447	2,914	2,391	5,556	4,752	3,142	2,630	2,774	3,582	2,325	3,036	37,498	26.0
Japan	1,638	180	126	131	150	92	96	124	139	145	143	142	227	1,695	3.5
Malaysia	1,582	198	154	81	139	264	242	176	230	238	228	303	219	2,472	56.3
P. Rep. of China	5,526	516	498	348	457	351	414	431	437	446	342	325	310	4,875	-11.8
Singapore	1,789	125	131	80	145	157	299	141	128	124	153	153	226	1,862	4.1
United Arab Emirates	1,344	109	46	76	115	109	192	406	317	132	185	86	123	1,896	41.1
Other Asian	7,060	681	659	492	564	922	705	1,190	1,185	857	803	674	572	9,304	31.8
OCEANIA	14,424	1,053	726	1,248	1,300	1,615	1,648	1,992	1,591	2,080	1,814	1,098	1,539	17,704	22.7
Australia	13,486	989	686	1,174	1,208	1,449	1,580	1,871	1,524	1,973	1,714	1,059	1,433	16,660	23.5
Other Oceanian	938	64	40	74	92	166	68	121	67	107	100	39	106	1,044	11.3
AMERICA	8,850	975	764	695	840	653	728	882	737	653	953	825	1,082	9,787	10.6
USA	4,890	483	366	369	495	407	446	448	411	370	429	399	597	5,220	6.7
Canada	2,119	202	140	171	198	127	167	288	177	118	239	173	298	2,298	8.4
Other American	1,841	290	258	155	147	119	115	146	149	165	285	253	187	2,269	23.2
OTHER & N.STATED	664	64	71	49	95	71	43	45	67	40	52	74	56	727	9.5
All Countries	761,063	86,218	64,894	58,136	57,361	50,773	42,755	65,540	64,307	56,138	75,451	70,394	96,309	788,276	3.6

¹ Provisional

³ Special Administrative Region of China

Table 6:- Selected Tourism Statistics, 2003 - 2006

,	Year	Tourist arrivals (Number)	Tourist nights (000)	Tourism receipts ¹ (Rs million)
	2003	702,018	6,952	19,415
	2004	718,861	7,119	23,448
	2005	761,063	7,498	25,704
	2006	788,276	7,840	31,942
2004	1st Qr.	184,278	1,815	6,487
	2nd Qr.	148,399	1,474	5,448
	1st Semester	332,677	3,289	11,935
	3rd Qr.	170,617	1,690	4,912
	4th Qr.	215,567	2,140	6,601
	2nd Semester	386,184	3,830	11,513
2005	1st Qr.	197,351	2,052	7,076
	2nd Qr.	151,960	1,496	5,508
	1st Semester	349,311	3,548	12,584
	3rd Qr.	179,441	1,813	5,428
	4th Qr.	232,311	2,137	7,692
	2nd Semester	411,752	3,950	13,120
2006 ²	1st Qr.	209,248	2,060	9,068
	2nd Qr.	150,889	1,500	6,383
	1st Semester	360,137	3,560	15,451
	3rd Qr.	185,985	1,880	6,607
	4th Qr.	242,154	2,400	9,884
	2nd Semester	428,139	4,280	16,491

¹ Source: Bank of Mauritius

Table 7:- Hotels, rooms and bedplaces, 2003 - 2006

V	ear	Numb	er as at end of p	eriod	
10	ear	Hotels	Rooms	Bedplaces	
	2003	97	9,647	19,727	
	2004	103	10,640	21,355	
	2005	99	10,497	21,072	
	2006	98	10,666	21,403	
2004	1st Qr.	94	9,563	19,527	
	2nd Qr.	97	9,944	20,295	
	3rd Qr.	98	10,008	20,115	
	4th Qr.	103	10,640	21,355	
2005	1st Qr.	100	10,571	21,239	
	2nd Qr.	97	10,224	20,545	
	3rd Qr.	98	10,447	20,973	
	4th Qr.	99	10,497	21,072	
2006 1	1st Qr.	99	10,629	21,341	
	2nd Qr.	95	10,278	20,564	
	3rd Qr.	94	10,108	20,281	
	4th Qr.	98 ²	10,666	21,403	

¹ Provisional

² Provisional

² Excluding four hotels not operational because of renovation works.

Table 8 :- Monthly Occupancy Rates (%) for All Hotels and "Large" Hotels, 2004 - 2006

			All H	lotels					''Large'	" Hotels		
Month	20	04	20	05	200)6 ¹	20	04	20	05	200)6 ¹
	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed
January	69	61	73	66	81	72	72	64	77	69	86	77
February	64	57	65	59	76	68	68	60	70	63	81	72
March	66	58	64	57	60	54	70	62	68	61	63	56
1st Quarter	<u>67</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>68</u>
April	63	56	56	50	58	52	67	59	59	53	61	55
May	59	52	55	49	51	46	62	55	58	52	54	48
June	47	41	45	40	45	41	48	43	45	41	47	42
2nd Quarter	<u>56</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>49</u>
1st Semester	61	54	60	53	62	55	64	57	62	56	65	59
July	52	47	54	49	56	50	55	49	56	50	58	52
August	58	52	64	57	69	62	62	56	67	60	73	66
September	64	57	63	57	67	60	69	62	67	60	71	63
3rd Quarter	<u>58</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>60</u>
Jan. to Sep.	60	53	60	54	63	56	64	56	62	56	66	59
October	70	63	68	61	73	65	75	67	73	65	76	68
November	74	66	78	70	78	70	78	70	83	74	81	73
December	68	61	74	66	79	71	72	64	78	70	81	73
4th Quarter	<u>70</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>71</u>
2nd Semester	64	58	67	<i>60</i>	70	63	68	62	71	63	73	66
Whole Year	63	56	63	57	66	59	66	59	66	59	69	62

¹ Provisional

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Table 9:- Employment in the tourist industry as at end of March, 2002 - 2006

Year Establishments	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Restaurants	1,252	1,719	1,623	1,809	1,805
Hotels	15,503	16,096	16,853	19,226	19,536
Travel and Tourism	3,974	4,045	4,137	4,342	4,457
Total	20,729	21,860	22,613	25,377	25,798

Source: Survey of Employment and Earnings in large Establishments (i.e employing 10 or more persons)

TECHNICAL NOTE

Sources of data

The main source of data for the compilation of passenger traffic statistics is the Passport and Immigration Office which maintains a database of all passengers entering and leaving the country. The data are extracted from the Embarkation/ Disembarkation cards filled in by all incoming and outgoing passengers. At the end of every month, passenger traffic for that particular month is downloaded and supplied to the statistics unit of the Ministry of Tourism, Leisure and External Communications within fifteen days. Additional data on cruises are supplied by the Mauritius Ports Authority.

To supplement the recurrent statistics a Survey of Outgoing Tourists (SOT) is conducted every two years since 1984 jointly by the Central Statistics Office and the Ministry of Tourism, Leisure and External Communications. This survey covers a representative sample of tourists at departure and provides qualitative and quantitative information on tourists. Results of the survey are published in a report.

Tourism receipts

The Bank of Mauritius is responsible for the estimation of tourism receipts based on monthly statements of Inward and Outward Remittances of Commercial Banks.

Monthly Occupancy Rates

All hotels are contacted by phone at the end of every month for data on room/bed nights available and rented during the month for the calculation of room and bed occupancy rates.

Short-term projections of tourist arrivals

A Tourism Statistics Committee grouping various stakeholders of the tourism industry meet regularly under the chairmanship of the Director of the Central Statistics Office to discuss performance of the tourism sector and to provide information for short-term forecast of tourist arrivals.

Publications

The regular publications on tourism statistics are:

- Monthly tourist arrivals (by mid of each month)
- Quarterly Economic and Social Indicators on International Travel and Tourism (with a lag of seven weeks)
- Quarterly tourism statistics (Pamphlet)
- ➤ Digest of International Travel and Tourism (August)
- ➤ Handbook of statistical data on tourism (August)
- > Report of the Survey of Outgoing Tourists