

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURISM

1st Quarter 2007

Introduction

This issue of the Economic and Social Indicators presents data on International Travel and Tourism and hotel statistics. A brief on the compilation of these statistics is given at Annex I while Annex II contains a glossary of terms used.

2. Passenger Traffic

2.1 Total Passenger Traffic

Passenger traffic for the first quarter of 2007 totalled 624,599, made up of 300,999 arrivals and 323,600 departures. Compared to the same period of year 2006, these figures represent increases of 14.1% in arrivals and 12.3% in departures. Movements by sea accounted for 2.6% of arrivals and 2.4% of departures. Further details on monthly figures are given in Table 1.

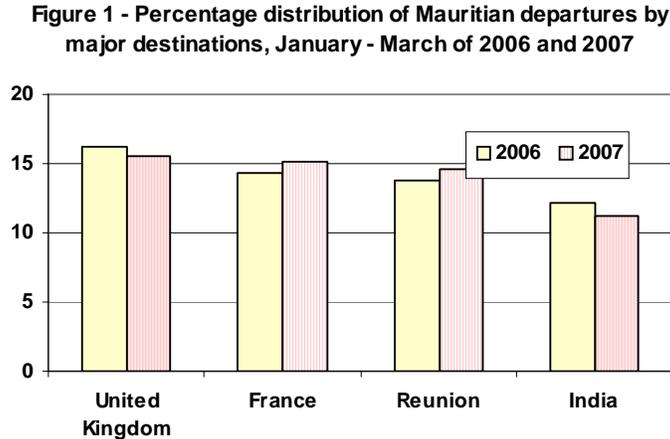
2.2 Excursionists

Total arrivals by air included 3,563 “excursionists”, i.e. visitors arriving and leaving on the same day. Of these excursionists, 1,327 (37.2%) came from Reunion Island and 841 (23.6%), from France. Total arrivals by sea included 3,454 “cruise excursionists” (2,342 passengers and 1,112 crews) aboard 7 cruise ships, which visited our port during the first three months of 2007.

2.3 Mauritian Residents

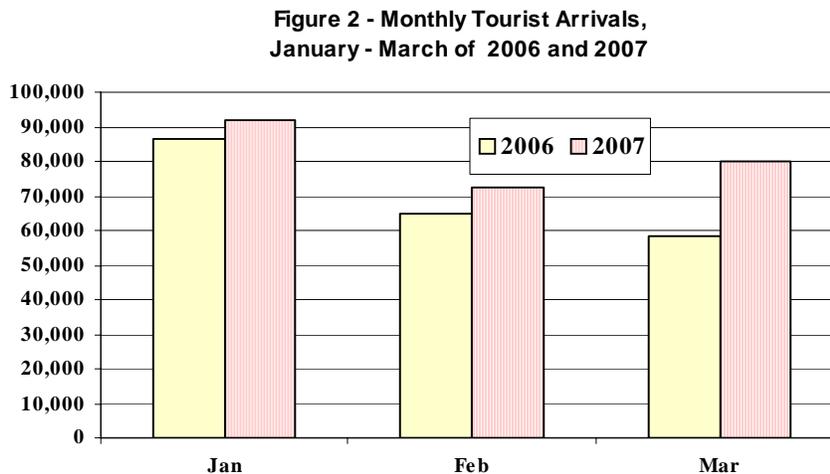
During the period under review, the number of Mauritian residents travelling abroad went up by 9.2% to stand at 44,747 against 40,992 for the first quarter of 2006. The following changes were observed in the number of Mauritians visiting the major destinations: United Arab Emirates (+37.6%), France (+15.4%), Reunion Island (+15.2%), Australia (+14.7%), Seychelles (+13.1%), Hong Kong (+8.6%), Singapore (+4.3%), United Kingdom (+4.0%), Republic of South Africa (+3.3%), India (+1.1%), Italy (-1.1%) and Malagasy Republic (-17.5%).

Figure 1 shows the percentage distribution of Mauritian departures by major destinations for the period January to March 2006 and 2007.



2.4 Tourist Arrivals

Tourist arrivals for the first quarter of 2007 reached 243,931. This represents an increase of 16.6% over the figure of 209,248 registered in the corresponding quarter of 2006. It is to be noted, however, that tourist arrivals in 2006 were affected adversely by the “Chikungunya” disease. Figure 2 shows monthly tourist arrivals for January to March of 2006 and 2007. Further details on tourist arrivals are given in Tables 3 to 6.



Around 92% of the tourists came mainly for holidays while 3.7% were in transit and another 3.3% were on business/conference trips (Table 4).

Arrivals from Europe, which accounted for 70% of total tourist arrivals, went up by 18.0% to reach 171,556 during the first quarter of 2007 against 145,415 in the corresponding quarter of 2006. Arrivals from France, our leading market representing 28% of total tourist arrivals and 40% of the European market, rose by 14.3% to attain 68,422 during this period. As far as other major generating countries of Europe are concerned, growths in arrivals were as follows: Germany (+20.7%), Italy (+10.6%) and United Kingdom (+10.3%). Among the remaining European countries, the following trend was observed: Sweden (+188.7%), Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) (+31.2%), Spain (+30.8%), Netherlands (+29.2%), Austria (+27.2%), Switzerland (+12.2%) and Belgium (+9.4%).

During the first quarter of 2007, arrivals from Africa, with a share of 22% of total tourist arrivals, increased by 14.7% to 52,931. Arrivals from Reunion Island, the major market of the region, rose by 8.3% while those from Republic of South Africa were up by 21.5%. Changes in arrivals from other African countries were as follows: Zimbabwe (+119.7%), Seychelles (+35.5%), Kenya (+30.7%), Malagasy Republic (+15.3%) and Comoros (-23.4%).

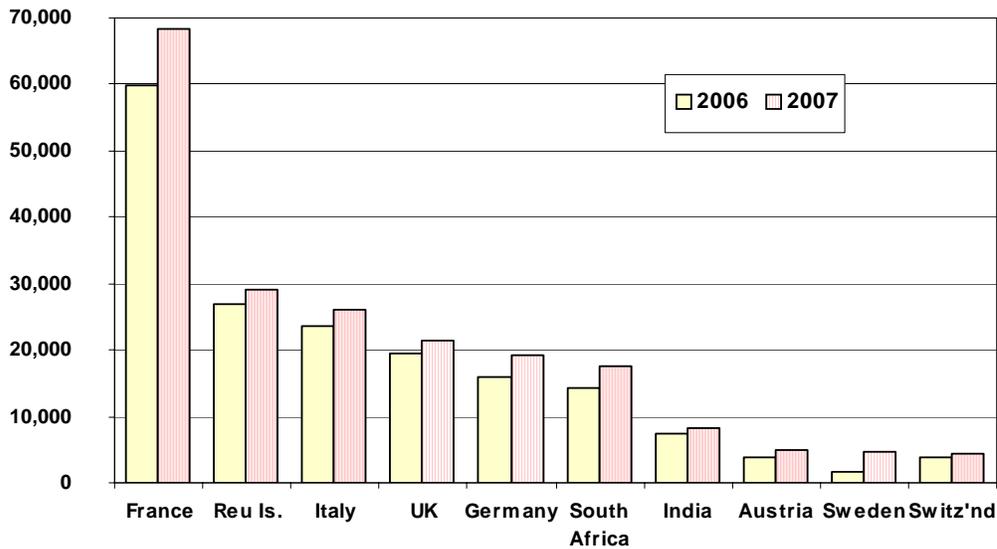
For the period under review, tourist arrivals from the Asian market, which represented 5% of total tourist arrivals were up by 10.9% to attain 13,349. Arrivals from India, our major source on this continent, grew by 12.4% to reach 8,219. The performance of other Asian countries was as follows: United Arab Emirates (+74.0%), Hong Kong (+59.4%), People's Republic of China (+10.3%), Singapore (-2.7%), Japan (-6.9%) and Malaysia (-15.0%).

Arrivals from Oceania went up by 14.2% to 3,456 mainly as a result of an increase of 15.1% in arrivals from Australia.

Arrivals from the continent of America increased by 2.1% to reach 2,484, being the result of increases of 13.3% in arrivals from Canada and 4.3% from USA, partly offset by a decline of 10.0% in arrivals from "Other American" countries.

Tourist arrivals from top ten markets for the period January to March 2006 and 2007 are given in Figure 3.

**Figure 3 - Tourist Arrivals from Top Ten Markets,
January - March of 2006 and 2007**



3. Tourist Nights

Total tourist nights spent in the country during the first three months of 2007 is estimated at 2.4 million, representing an increase of 25.3% over the same period of the preceding year (Table 6).

4. Hotel Statistics

At the end of March 2007, there was a total of 97 registered hotels in operation. Owing to renovation, three hotels were not operational. The total room capacity for these registered hotels was 10,683 with 21,509 bedplaces (Table 7). The room occupancy rate for all hotels, for the first quarter of 2007, averaged 82% while the bed occupancy rate was 73% (Table 8).

“Large” hotels, i.e. well-established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms, numbered 42 (43% of all registered hotels). These hotels had a room capacity of 8,066 with 16,197 bedplaces, representing 76% of total room capacity and 75% of total bedplaces. The average room occupancy rate for these hotels for the first three months of 2007 was 85% while bed occupancy rate averaged 76% (Table 8).

5. Gross Tourism Receipts

Data from the Bank of Mauritius indicate that gross tourism receipts for the first quarter of 2007 amounted to Rs 10,791 million, i.e. an increase of 19.0% compared to Rs 9,068 million for the same period of 2006 (Table 6).

6. 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 19,536 were engaged in hotels (Table 9).

7. Forecast Year 2007

Based on information gathered from the main stakeholders of this sector and the favourable performances registered from January to April 2007, the earlier forecast of tourist arrivals of 850,000 (+7.8%) has been revised upwards. The number of tourist arrivals for the year 2007 is now expected to grow by around 11% to reach 875,000 from 788,276 in 2006.

According to the Bank of Mauritius tourism receipts for the year 2007 will be around Rs 36,430 million (+14.1 %) compared to Rs 31,942 million a year earlier.

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LIST OF TABLES

Table	Description	Page
1	Passenger Traffic by month, 2005 - 2007	7
2	Departure of Mauritian residents by country of disembarkation, 1st Quarter of 2006 and 2007	8
3	Tourist arrivals by month, 2005 - 2007	9
4	Tourist arrivals by main purpose of visit, 1st Quarter of 2006 and 2007	9
5	Tourist arrivals by country of residence, January - March of 2006 and 2007	10
6	Tourist arrivals, nights and receipts, 2004 - 2007	11
7	Hotels, rooms and bedplaces, 2004 - 2007	11
8	Monthly occupancy rates (%) for All hotels and "Large" hotels, 2005 - 2007	12
9	Employment in the tourist industry as at end of March, 2002 - 2006	13

ANNEX

- I BRIEF ON COMPILATION OF PASSENGER TRAFFIC STATISTICS
- II GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Table 1:- Passenger Traffic ¹ by month, 2005 - 2007

Month	2005		2006		2007	
	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures
January	93,809	110,249	108,932	124,313	114,503	133,861
February	71,350	69,084	80,202	80,796	86,655	86,343
March	85,353	85,395	74,574	83,160	99,841	103,396
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>250,512</u>	<u>264,728</u>	<u>263,708</u>	<u>288,269</u>	<u>300,999</u>	<u>323,600</u>
April	71,302	73,753	74,092	72,052		
May	73,111	75,814	65,979	69,023		
June	61,487	55,736	60,396	56,460		
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>205,900</u>	<u>205,303</u>	<u>200,467</u>	<u>197,535</u>		
<i>1st Semester</i>	<i>456,412</i>	<i>470,031</i>	<i>464,175</i>	<i>485,804</i>		
July	88,752	73,586	90,862	76,408		
August	83,314	94,535	86,128	94,927		
September	70,784	74,767	73,157	75,222		
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>242,850</u>	<u>242,888</u>	<u>250,147</u>	<u>246,557</u>		
<i>Jan. to Sep.</i>	<i>699,262</i>	<i>712,919</i>	<i>714,322</i>	<i>732,361</i>		
October	87,365	84,467	91,891	85,930		
November	88,491	85,783	89,668	88,779		
December	114,795	92,963	120,983	97,636		
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>290,651</u>	<u>263,213</u>	<u>302,542</u>	<u>272,345</u>		
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<i>533,501</i>	<i>506,101</i>	<i>552,689</i>	<i>518,902</i>		
Whole Year	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,
1st Quarter of 2006 and 2007**

Country of disembarkation	1st Quarter 2006	1st Quarter 2007	% Change
EUROPE	14,510	15,843	9.2
Belgium	8	1	-87.5
France	5,892	6,800	15.4
Germany	492	548	11.4
Italy	905	895	-1.1
Switzerland	520	598	15.0
United Kingdom	6,660	6,929	4.0
Other European	33	72	118.2
AFRICA	12,780	13,854	8.4
Malagasy Republic	2,167	1,787	-17.5
Reunion	5,673	6,535	15.2
Seychelles	1,462	1,653	13.1
S. Africa, Rep. of	3,412	3,524	3.3
Zimbabwe	29	-	-100.0
Other African	37	355	859.5
ASIA	11,278	12,183	8.0
Hong Kong SAR ¹	1,906	2,069	8.6
India	4,960	5,015	1.1
Malaysia	272	118	-56.6
Singapore	1,968	2,052	4.3
Saudi Arabia	51	-	-100.0
United Arab Emirates	2,118	2,914	37.6
Other Asian	3	15	400.0
OCEANIA	2,388	2,740	14.7
Australia	2,388	2,740	14.7
Other Oceanian	-	-	-
AMERICA	15	23	53.3
U.S.A	9	9	-
Canada	6	12	100.0
Other American	-	2	-
NOT STATED	21	104	395.2
All Countries	40,992	44,747	9.2

¹ Special Administrative Region of China

Table 3:- Tourist arrivals by month, 2005 - 2007

Month	Number		
	2005	2006	2007 ¹
January	73,053	86,218	91,628
February	56,367	64,894	72,338
March	67,931	58,136	79,965
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>197,351</u>	<u>209,248</u>	<u>243,931</u>
April	52,971	57,361	
May	55,995	50,773	
June	42,994	42,755	
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>151,960</u>	<u>150,889</u>	
<i>1st Semester</i>	<i>349,311</i>	<i>360,137</i>	
July	65,462	65,540	
August	60,746	64,307	
September	53,233	56,138	
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>179,441</u>	<u>185,985</u>	
<i>Jan. to Sep.</i>	<i>528,752</i>	<i>546,122</i>	
October	70,999	75,451	
November	70,793	70,394	
December	90,519	96,309	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>232,311</u>	<u>242,154</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<i>411,752</i>	<i>428,139</i>	
Whole Year	761,063	788,276	

¹ Provisional**Table 4 :- Tourist arrivals by main purpose of visit,
1st Quarter of 2006 and 2007**

Purpose of visit	1st Quarter 2006	1st Quarter 2007	% Change
Holiday	190,178	224,114	17.8
Business	7,051	7,264	3.0
Transit	8,481	9,005	6.2
Conference	1,200	726	-39.5
Sports	216	200	-7.4
Other & Not Stated	2,122	2,622	23.6
Total	209,248	243,931	16.6

Table 5 : - Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, January - March of 2006 and 2007

Country of residence	1st Quarter 2006	2007 ¹				1st Quarter 2007	% Change Q1 2006 to Q1 2007
		Jan	Feb	Mar			
EUROPE	145,415	59,365	56,288	55,903	171,556	18.0	
Austria	3,871	1,521	1,878	1,524	4,923	27.2	
Belgium	1,918	726	698	674	2,098	9.4	
France	59,845	25,686	21,582	21,154	68,422	14.3	
Germany	15,835	5,570	6,359	7,183	19,112	20.7	
Italy	23,509	10,079	8,346	7,586	26,011	10.6	
Netherlands	1,066	386	573	418	1,377	29.2	
Spain	1,281	392	536	747	1,675	30.8	
Sweden	1,611	1,515	1,697	1,439	4,651	188.7	
Switzerland	3,800	1,416	1,544	1,303	4,263	12.2	
United Kingdom	19,486	5,595	6,895	9,003	21,493	10.3	
CIS ²	2,439	1,601	634	965	3,200	31.2	
Other European	10,754	4,878	5,546	3,907	14,331	33.3	
AFRICA	46,146	26,177	9,095	17,659	52,931	14.7	
Comoros	175	34	47	53	134	-23.4	
Kenya	264	82	126	137	345	30.7	
Malagasy Rep.	1,489	564	541	612	1,717	15.3	
Reunion	26,788	17,983	2,866	8,169	29,018	8.3	
Seychelles	1,984	844	743	1,102	2,689	35.5	
S. Africa, Rep. of	14,362	6,196	4,338	6,917	17,451	21.5	
Zimbabwe	142	74	101	137	312	119.7	
Other African	942	400	333	532	1,265	34.3	
ASIA	12,042	3,915	5,135	4,299	13,349	10.9	
Hong Kong SAR ³	101	57	69	35	161	59.4	
India	7,310	2,457	3,180	2,582	8,219	12.4	
Japan	437	119	185	103	407	-6.9	
Malaysia	433	78	166	124	368	-15.0	
P. Rep. of China	1,362	378	683	441	1,502	10.3	
Singapore	336	84	148	95	327	-2.7	
United Arab Emirates	231	119	96	187	402	74.0	
Other Asian	1,832	623	608	732	1,963	7.2	
OCEANIA	3,027	1,290	908	1,258	3,456	14.2	
Australia	2,849	1,212	869	1,197	3,278	15.1	
Other Oceanian	178	78	39	61	178	0.0	
AMERICA	2,434	857	843	784	2,484	2.1	
USA	1,218	425	435	410	1,270	4.3	
Canada	513	184	203	194	581	13.3	
Other American	703	248	205	180	633	-10.0	
OTHER & N.STATED	184	24	69	62	155	-15.8	
All Countries	209,248	91,628	72,338	79,965	243,931	16.6	

¹ Provisional² Commonwealth of Independent States (Ex Soviet Union Countries)³ Special Administrative Region of China

Table 6 :- Tourist arrivals, nights and receipts, 2004 - 2007

Year		Tourist arrivals (Number)	Tourist nights (000)	Tourism receipts ¹ (Rs million)
	2004	718,861	7,119	23,448
	2005	761,063	7,498	25,704
	2006	788,276	7,761 ²	31,942
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	1st Qr.	209,248	1,939 ²	9,068
	2nd Qr.	150,889	1,327 ²	6,383
	1st Semester	360,137	3,266²	15,451
	3rd Qr.	185,985	1,904 ²	6,607
	4th Qr.	242,154	2,591 ²	9,884
	2nd Semester	428,139	4,495²	16,491
2007³	1st Qr.	243,931	2,430	10,791

¹ Source: Bank of Mauritius² Revised³ Provisional**Table 7:- Hotels, rooms and bedplaces, 2004 - 2007**

Year	Number as at end of period			
	Hotels	Rooms	Bedplaces	
2004	103	10,640	21,355	
2005	99	10,497	21,072	
2006	98	10,666	21,403	
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	1st Qr.	99	10,629	21,341
	2nd Qr.	95	10,278	20,564
	3rd Qr.	94	10,108	20,281
	4th Qr.	98	10,666	21,403
2007¹	1st Qr.	97 ²	10,683	21,509

¹ Provisional² Excluding three hotels not operational because of renovation works

Table 8 :- Monthly Occupancy Rates (%) for All Hotels and "Large" Hotels, 2005 - 2007

Month	All Hotels						"Large" Hotels					
	2005		2006		2007 ¹		2005		2006		2007 ¹	
	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed
January	73	66	81	72	86	77	77	69	86	77	89	79
February	65	59	76	68	82	73	70	63	81	72	86	77
March	64	57	60	54	77	69	68	61	63	56	81	72
<i>1st Quarter</i>	<u>68</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>76</u>
April	56	50	58	52			59	53	61	55		
May	55	49	51	46			58	52	54	48		
June	45	40	45	41			45	41	47	42		
<i>2nd Quarter</i>	<u>53</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>46</u>			<u>55</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>49</u>		
<i>1st Semester</i>	60	53	62	55			62	56	65	59		
July	54	49	56	50			56	50	58	52		
August	64	57	69	62			67	60	73	66		
September	63	57	67	60			67	60	71	63		
<i>3rd Quarter</i>	<u>61</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>57</u>			<u>63</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>60</u>		
<i>Jan. to Sep.</i>	60	54	63	56			62	56	66	59		
October	68	61	73	65			73	65	76	68		
November	78	70	78	70			83	74	81	73		
December	74	66	79	71			78	70	81	73		
<i>4th Quarter</i>	<u>73</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>69</u>			<u>78</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>71</u>		
<i>2nd Semester</i>	67	60	70	63			71	63	73	66		
Whole Year	63	57	66	59			66	59	69	62		

¹ Provisional

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

Establishments \ Year	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)

BRIEF ON COMPILATION OF PASSENGER TRAFFIC STATISTICS

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 the Survey of Outgoing Tourists 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 of the unit 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

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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.

$$= \frac{\text{Total number of room/bed nights rented}}{\text{Total number of room/bed nights available}} \times 100$$

7. CIS

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