

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURISM

1st Semester 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 semester of 2007 totalled 1,126,960, made up of 552,478 arrivals and 574,482 departures. Compared to the same period of year 2006, these figures represent increases of 19.0% in arrivals and 18.3% 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

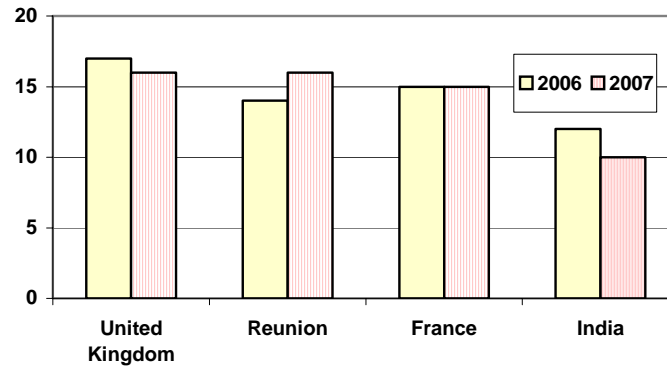
Total arrivals by air included 6,706 "excursionists", i.e. visitors arriving and leaving on the same day. Of these excursionists, 2,094 (31.2%) came from Reunion Island and 1,488 (22.2%), from France. Total arrivals by sea included 6,339 "cruise excursionists" (4,094 passengers and 2,245 crews) aboard 9 cruise ships, which visited our port during the first six months of 2007.

2.3 Mauritian Residents

During the period under review, the number of Mauritian residents travelling abroad went up by 13.7% to 92,061 compared to 80,949 for the first semester of 2006 (Table 2). The following changes were observed in the number of Mauritians visiting the major destinations: United Kingdom (+7.7%), Reunion Island (+30.5%), France (+11.5%), India (+2.1%), Republic of South Africa (+13.0%), United Arab Emirates (+31.4%), Hong Kong (+14.2%), Australia (+23.2%), Malagasy Republic (+4.4%), Singapore (-4.4%) and Seychelles (+11.4%).

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

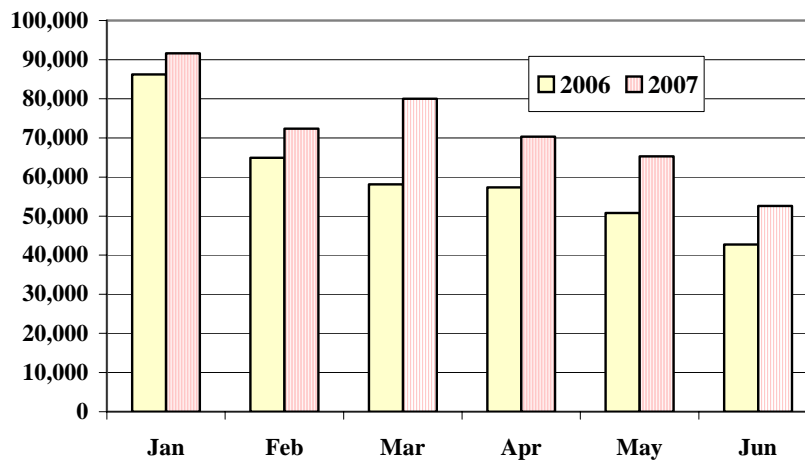
Figure 1 - Percentage distribution of Mauritian departures by major destination, January - June of 2006 and 2007



2.4 Tourist Arrivals

Tourist arrivals for the first semester of 2007 increased by 20.0% to reach 432,113 compared to 360,137 for the same period of 2006. Figure 2 shows monthly tourist arrivals for January to June of 2006 and 2007. Further details on tourist arrivals are given in Tables 3 to 6.

Figure 2 - Monthly Tourist Arrivals, January - June of 2006 and 2007



Around 91% of the tourists came for holidays while 4.1% were on business/conference trips and another 3.7% were in transit (Table 4).

Arrivals from Europe, which accounted for 66.4% of total tourist arrivals, went up by 23.8% to reach 286,929 during the first semester of 2007 against 231,748 in the corresponding period of 2006. Arrivals from France, our leading market representing 25.8% of total tourist arrivals and 38.9% of the European market, rose by 32.6% to attain 111,577 during this period. Growth in tourist arrivals was also registered from the other major generating countries of Europe: Germany (+30.5%), Italy (+12.3%) and United Kingdom (+5.3%). Among the remaining European countries, the following trend was observed: Sweden (+148.9%), Netherlands (+37.7%), Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) (+30.5%), Belgium (+21.6%), Austria (+17.3%), Switzerland (+16.2%) and Spain (+15.1%).

During the first semester of 2007, arrivals from Africa, with a share of 22.5% of total tourist arrivals, increased by 14.0% to 97,408. Arrivals from Reunion Island and Republic of South Africa, the two major markets of the region, rose by 10.5% and 17.6% respectively. Changes in arrivals from other African countries were as follows: Malagasy Republic (+25.4%), Seychelles (+17.5%), Zimbabwe (+9.7%), Kenya (+2.2%) and Comoros (-24.5%).

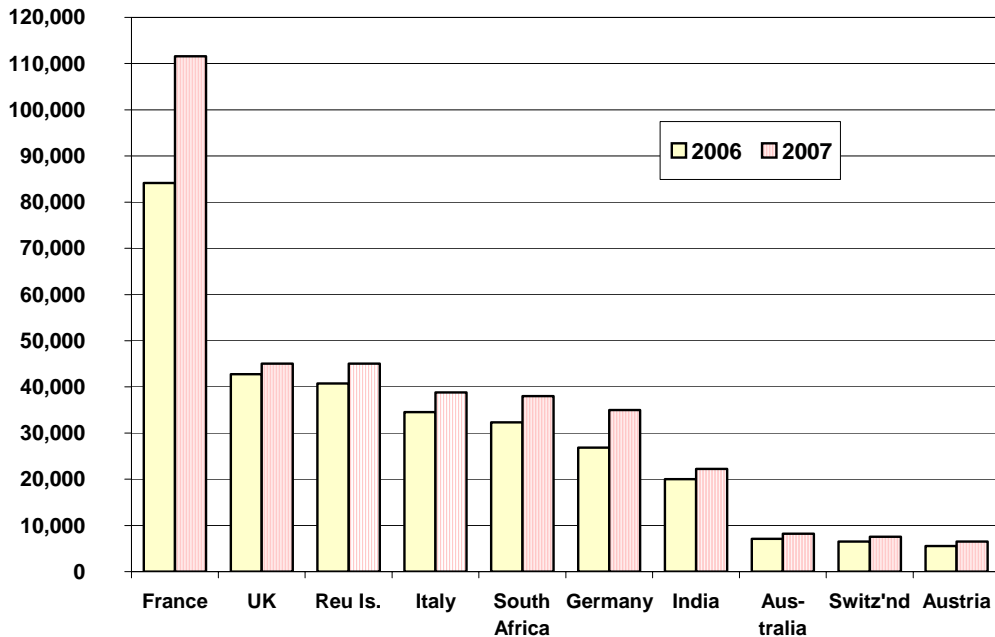
For the period under review, tourist arrivals from the Asian market, which represented 7.8% of total tourist arrivals, went up by 11.8% to attain 33,864. Arrivals from India, our major source on this continent, grew by 11.1% to reach 22,229. The performance of other Asian countries was as follows: People's Republic of China (+45.1%), Hong Kong (+42.3%), United Arab Emirates (+32.5%), Singapore (+7.2%), Japan (-4.3%) and Malaysia (-10.5%).

Arrivals from Oceania increased by 14.0% from 7,590 to 8,653 mainly as a result of a rise of 16.2% in arrivals from Australia.

Arrivals from the continent of America increased by 5.7% to 4,919, due to increases of 13.9% in arrivals from Canada, 4.5% from USA and 0.8% from "Other American" countries.

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

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



3. Tourist Nights

Total tourist nights spent in the country during the first six months of 2007 is estimated at 4.3 million, representing an increase of 32.6% over the same period of the preceding year (Table 6).

4. Hotel Statistics

At the end of June 2007, there was a total of 88 registered hotels in operation. Owing to renovation, twelve hotels were not operational. The total room capacity for these registered hotels was 9,126 with 18,256 bedplaces (Table 7). For the first semester of 2007, the room occupancy rate for all hotels averaged 75% while the bed occupancy rate was 67% (Table 8).

“Large” hotels, i.e. well-established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms, numbered 34 (39% of all registered hotels). These hotels had a room capacity of 6,596 with 13,161 bedplaces, representing 72% of both total room capacity and total bedplaces. The average room occupancy

rate for these hotels for the first six months of 2007 was 79% and bed occupancy rate averaged 71% compared to 65% and 59% respectively a year ago (Table 8).

5. Gross Tourism Receipts

Data from the Bank of Mauritius indicate that gross tourism receipts for the first semester of 2007 amounted to Rs 19,752 million, i.e. an increase of 27.8% compared to Rs 15,451 million for the same period of 2006 (Table 6).

6. Employment

According to the Survey of Employment and Earnings, direct employment in hotels, restaurants and travel and tourism establishments employing 10 persons or more stood at 26,247 at the end of March 2007 showing an increase of 1.7% over the figure of 25,798 for the March 2006. Of this number, 76.8% or 20,158 were engaged in hotels (Table 9).

7. Forecast Year 2007

Based on data available on tourist arrivals for the first seven months of the year, the earlier forecast of 875,000 tourist arrivals (+11.0%) for the year 2007 has been revised upwards to 900,000 (+14.2%).

According to the Bank of Mauritius, tourism receipts for the year 2007 will be around Rs 38,840 million (+21.6%) compared to Rs 31,942 million in 2006.

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- 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
1st Quarter	250,512	264,728	263,708	288,269	300,999	323,600
April	71,302	73,753	74,092	72,052	92,982	94,269
May	73,111	75,814	65,979	69,023	83,963	86,831
June	61,487	55,736	60,396	56,460	74,534	69,782
2nd Quarter	205,900	205,303	200,467	197,535	251,479	250,882
1st Semester	456,412	470,031	464,175	485,804	552,478	574,482
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		
3rd Quarter	242,850	242,888	250,147	246,557		
Jan. to Sep.	699,262	712,919	714,322	732,361		
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		
4th Quarter	290,651	263,213	302,542	272,345		
2nd Semester	533,501	506,101	552,689	518,902		
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,
January - June of 2006 and 2007**

Country of disembarkation	Jan - June 2006	Jan - June 2007	% Change
EUROPE	29,392	32,297	9.9
France	12,018	13,404	11.5
Germany	977	1,011	3.5
Italy	1,349	1,492	10.6
Switzerland	950	1,173	23.5
United Kingdom	14,043	15,131	7.7
Other European	55	86	56.4
AFRICA	24,558	29,555	20.3
Malagasy Republic	3,809	3,976	4.4
Reunion	11,187	14,600	30.5
Seychelles	2,692	3,000	11.4
S. Africa, Rep. of	6,423	7,256	13.0
Zimbabwe	81	-	-100.0
Other African	366	723	97.5
ASIA	23,078	25,379	10.0
Hong Kong SAR ¹	4,514	5,155	14.2
India	9,413	9,606	2.1
Malaysia	283	385	36.0
Singapore	3,952	3,778	-4.4
Saudi Arabia	51	-	-100.0
United Arab Emirates	4,861	6,389	31.4
Other Asian	4	66	1,550.0
OCEANIA	3,767	4,640	23.2
Australia	3,767	4,640	23.2
Other Oceanian	-	-	-
AMERICA	17	23	35.3
U.S.A	9	9	-
Canada	8	12	50.0
Other American	-	2	-
NOT STATED	137	167	21.9
All Countries	80,949	92,061	13.7

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
<i>1st Quarter</i>	<u>197,351</u>	<u>209,248</u>	<u>243,931</u>
April	52,971	57,361	70,297
May	55,995	50,773	65,301
June	42,994	42,755	52,584
<i>2nd Quarter</i>	<u>151,960</u>	<u>150,889</u>	<u>188,182</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	349,311	360,137	432,113
July	65,462	65,540	
August	60,746	64,307	
September	53,233	56,138	
<i>3rd Quarter</i>	<u>179,441</u>	<u>185,985</u>	
<i>Jan. to Sep.</i>	528,752	546,122	
October	70,999	75,451	
November	70,793	70,394	
December	90,519	96,309	
<i>4th Quarter</i>	<u>232,311</u>	<u>242,154</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	411,752	428,139	
Whole Year	761,063	788,276	

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

Purpose of visit	Jan - June 2006	Jan - June 2007	% Change
Holiday	322,298	391,417	21.4
Business	14,548	15,455	6.2
Transit	13,834	16,199	17.1
Conference	3,423	2,242	-34.5
Sports	763	393	-48.5
Other & Not Stated	5,271	6,407	21.6
Total	360,137	432,113	20.0

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

Country of residence	1st semester 2006	2007 ¹							1st semester	% Change Jan-June 2006 to Jan-June 2007
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun			
EUROPE	231,748	59,365	56,288	55,903	47,638	38,015	29,720	286,929	23.8	
Austria	5,571	1,521	1,878	1,524	797	539	278	6,537	17.3	
Belgium	3,616	726	698	674	886	664	748	4,396	21.6	
France	84,174	25,686	21,582	21,154	18,424	14,440	10,291	111,577	32.6	
Germany	26,837	5,570	6,359	7,183	5,673	5,942	4,297	35,024	30.5	
Italy	34,555	10,079	8,346	7,586	6,136	3,515	3,142	38,804	12.3	
Netherlands	2,052	386	573	418	632	463	353	2,825	37.7	
Spain	3,800	392	536	747	742	953	1,005	4,375	15.1	
Sweden	2,175	1,515	1,697	1,439	396	190	176	5,413	148.9	
Switzerland	6,488	1,416	1,544	1,303	1,540	1,021	718	7,542	16.2	
United Kingdom	42,748	5,595	6,895	9,003	8,894	8,060	6,572	45,019	5.3	
CIS ²	3,778	1,601	634	965	901	505	323	4,929	30.5	
Other European	15,954	4,878	5,546	3,907	2,617	1,723	1,817	20,488	28.4	
AFRICA	85,457	26,177	9,095	17,659	15,450	16,224	12,803	97,408	14.0	
Comoros	412	34	47	53	51	66	60	311	-24.5	
Kenya	757	82	126	137	120	126	183	774	2.2	
Malagasy Rep.	3,077	564	541	612	658	733	750	3,858	25.4	
Reunion	40,724	17,983	2,866	8,169	4,592	8,252	3,153	45,015	10.5	
Seychelles	4,903	844	743	1,102	1,080	592	1,401	5,762	17.5	
S. Africa, Rep. of	32,337	6,196	4,338	6,917	8,294	5,653	6,617	38,015	17.6	
Zimbabwe	740	74	101	137	274	137	89	812	9.7	
Other African	2,507	400	333	532	381	665	550	2,861	14.1	
ASIA	30,294	3,915	5,135	4,299	4,665	8,382	7,468	33,864	11.8	
Hong Kong SAR ³	241	57	69	35	55	54	73	343	42.3	
India	20,009	2,457	3,180	2,582	2,788	6,246	4,976	22,229	11.1	
Japan	775	119	185	103	120	114	101	742	-4.3	
Malaysia	1,078	78	166	124	168	255	174	965	-10.5	
P. Rep. of China	2,584	378	683	441	589	723	936	3,750	45.1	
Singapore	937	84	148	95	160	220	297	1,004	7.2	
United Arab Emirates	647	119	96	187	101	147	207	857	32.5	
Other Asian	4,023	623	608	732	684	623	704	3,974	-1.2	
OCEANIA	7,590	1,290	908	1,258	1,602	1,829	1,766	8,653	14.0	
Australia	7,086	1,212	869	1,197	1,532	1,737	1,688	8,235	16.2	
Other Oceanian	504	78	39	61	70	92	78	418	-17.1	
AMERICA	4,655	857	843	784	873	786	776	4,919	5.7	
USA	2,566	425	435	410	526	459	426	2,681	4.5	
Canada	1,005	184	203	194	191	159	214	1,145	13.9	
Other American	1,084	248	205	180	156	168	136	1,093	0.8	
OTHER & N.STATED	393	24	69	62	69	65	51	340	-13.5	
All Countries	360,137	91,628	72,338	79,965	70,297	65,301	52,584	432,113	20.0	

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	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	9,068
	2nd Qr.	150,889	1,327	6,383
	1st Semester	360,137	3,266	15,451
	3rd Qr.	185,985	1,904	6,607
	4th Qr.	242,154	2,591	9,884
	2nd Semester	428,139	4,495	16,491
2007 ²	1st Qr.	243,931	2,430	10,791
	2nd Qr.	188,182	1,900	8,961
	1st Semester	432,113	4,330	19,752

¹ Source: Bank of Mauritius² 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
2007 ¹	1st Qr.	97	10,683	21,509
	2nd Qr.	88 ²	9,126	18,256

¹ Provisional² Excluding twelve 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	75	67	59	53	61	55	80	72
May	55	49	51	46	71	64	58	52	54	48	74	67
June	45	40	45	41	59	53	45	41	47	42	62	56
<i>2nd Quarter</i>	<u>53</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>65</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	60	53	62	55	75	67	62	56	65	59	79	71
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, 2003 - 2007

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007¹
Establishments					
Restaurants	1,719	1,623	1,809	1,805	1,793
Hotels	16,096	16,853	19,226	19,536	20,158
Travel and Tourism	4,045	4,137	4,342	4,457	4,296
Total	21,860	22,613	25,377	25,798	26,247

¹ Provisional

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.