

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURISM

January to September 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 period January to September 2007 totalled 1,698,443, made up of 840,611 arrivals and 857,832 departures. Compared to the same period of year 2006, these figures represent increases of 17.7% in arrivals and 17.1% in departures. Movements by sea accounted for 2.2% of arrivals and 2.1% of departures. Further details on monthly figures are given in Table 1.

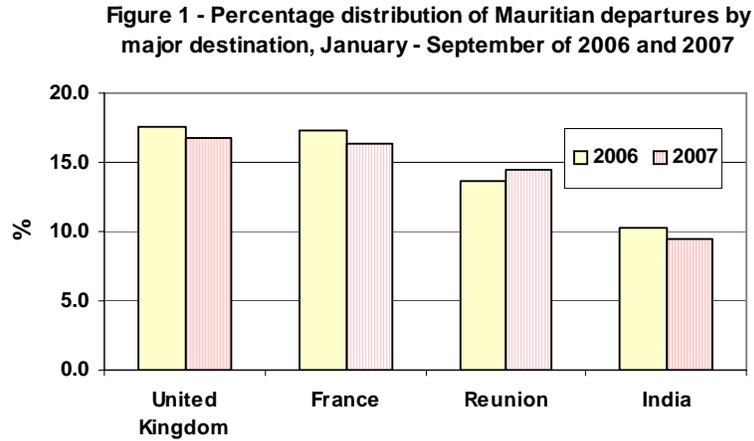
2.2 Excursionists

Total arrivals by air included 11,725 "excursionists", i.e. visitors arriving and leaving on the same day. Of these excursionists, 3,669 (31.3%) came from Reunion Island and 2,706 (23.1%), 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 nine months of 2007.

2.3 Mauritian Residents

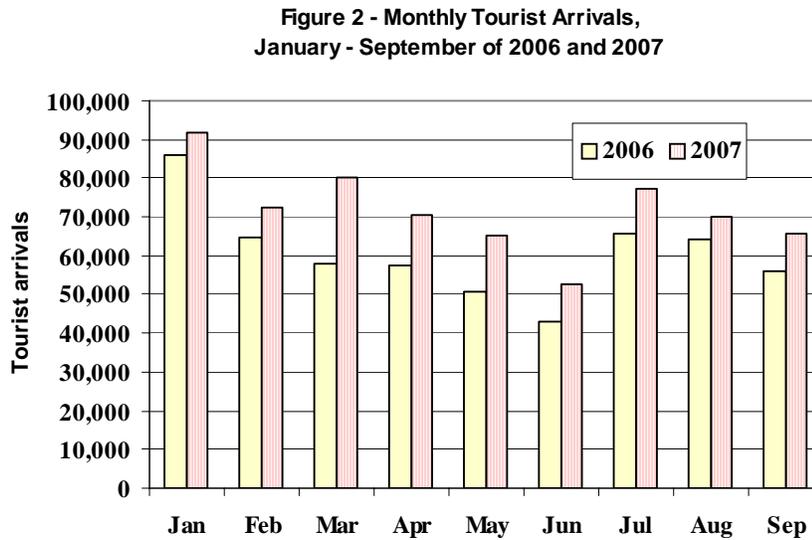
During the period under review, the number of Mauritian residents travelling abroad went up by 12.0% to 153,944 compared to 137,433 for the first nine months of 2006 (Table 2). The following changes were observed in the number of Mauritians visiting the major destinations: United Kingdom (+6.5%), France (+6.4%), Reunion Island (+18.6%), India (+3.1%), Republic of South Africa (+17.1%), United Arab Emirates (+21.2%), Hong Kong (+16.5%), Malagasy Republic (+26.8%), Australia (+25.0%), Singapore (-8.8%) and Seychelles (+12.6%).

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



2.4 Tourist Arrivals

Tourist arrivals for the first nine months of 2007 increased by 18.1% to reach 644,821 compared to 546,122 for the same period of 2006. Figure 2 shows monthly tourist arrivals for January to September of 2006 and 2007. Further details on tourist arrivals are given in Tables 3 to 6.



Around 90% of the tourists came for holidays while 4.0% were on business/conference trips and another 4.0% were in transit (Table 4).

Arrivals from Europe, which accounted for 64.8% of total tourist arrivals, went up by 20.9% to reach 417,779 during the first nine months of 2007 against 345,661 for the corresponding period of 2006. Arrivals from France, our leading market representing 25.3% of total tourist arrivals and 39.0% of the European market, rose by 37.0% to attain 162,901 during this period. Increases were also noted for the other major generating countries of Europe: Germany (+22.6%), Italy (+4.6%) and United Kingdom (+4.0%). Among the remaining European countries, the following trend was observed: Sweden (+131.6%), Netherlands (+19.7%), Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) (+25.2%), Belgium (+19.8%), Switzerland (+13.9%), Austria (+12.7%), and Spain (+3.8%).

During the first nine months of 2007, arrivals from Africa, with a share of 23.7% of total tourist arrivals, increased by 13.9% to 152,566. Arrivals from Reunion Island and Republic of South Africa, the two major markets of the region, rose by 10.9% and 18.1% respectively. Changes in arrivals from other African countries were as follows: Malagasy Republic (+21.0%), Seychelles (+20.8%), Zimbabwe (+10.2%), Kenya (+7.6%) and Comoros (-23.6%).

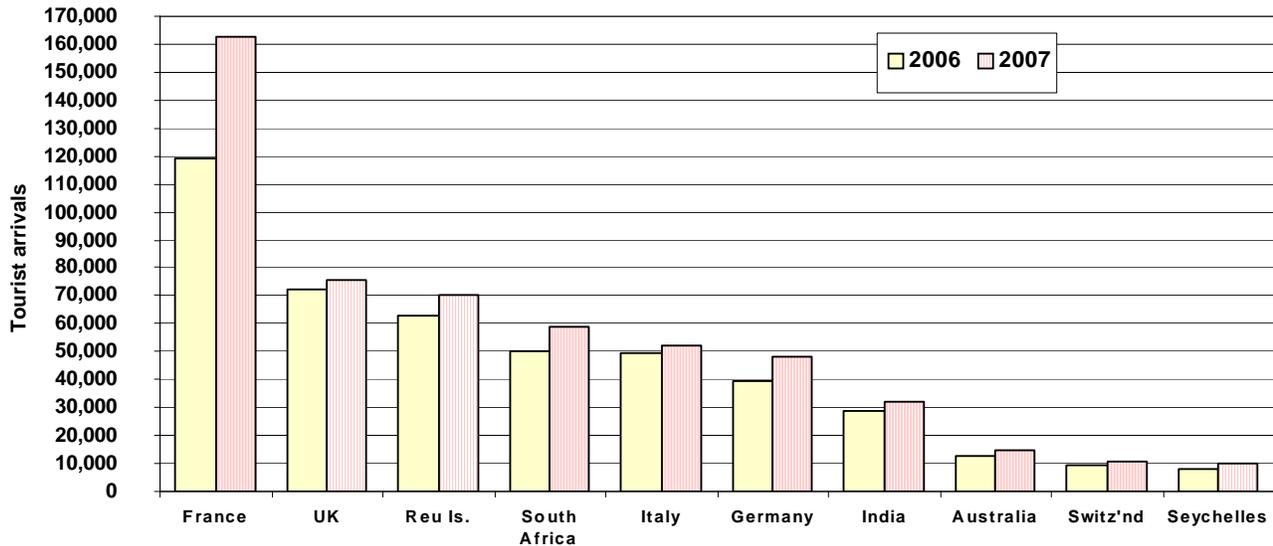
For the period under review, tourist arrivals from the Asian market, which represented 7.9% of total tourist arrivals, went up by 11.2% to attain 50,939. Arrivals from India, our major source on this continent, grew by 11.8% to reach 31,926. The performance of other Asian countries was as follows: People's Republic of China (+49.2%), Hong Kong (+46.5%), Singapore (+8.8%), Japan (+6.6%) United Arab Emirates (+0.8%) and Malaysia (-17.8%).

Arrivals from Oceania increased by 17.3% from 13,253 to 15,547 as a result of a rise of 18.8% in arrivals from Australia, which was partly offset by a fall of 5.3% in arrivals from the other Oceanian countries.

Arrivals from the continent of America went up by 8.0% to 7,480, due to increases of 12.7% in arrivals from Canada, 5.1% from USA and 10.2% from "Other American" countries.

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

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



3. Tourist Nights

Total tourist nights spent in the country during the first nine months of 2007 is estimated at 6.5 million, representing an increase of 25.9% over the same period of the preceding year (Table 6).

4. Hotel Statistics

At the end of September 2007, there was a total of 93 registered hotels in operation. Owing to renovation, eight hotels were not operational. The total room capacity for these registered hotels was 10,201 with 20,454 bedplaces (Table 7). For the first nine months 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 40 (43% of all registered hotels). These hotels had a room capacity of 7,685 with 15,388 bedplaces, representing 75% of both total room capacity and total bedplaces. The average room occupancy rate for these hotels for the first nine months of 2007 was 78% and bed occupancy rate averaged 70% compared to 66% 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 nine months of 2007 amounted to Rs 28,404 million, i.e. an increase of 28.8% compared to Rs 22,058 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 26,322 at the end of March 2007 showing an increase of 2.0% over the figure of 25,798 for the March 2006. Of this number, 20,233 or 76.9% were engaged in hotels (Table 9).

7. Forecast Year 2007

Based on data available on tourist arrivals for the first nine months of the year, the latest forecast of 900,000 tourist arrivals (+14.2%) for the year 2007 is maintained.

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.

Central Statistics Office

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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	106,670	90,663
August	83,314	94,535	86,128	94,927	96,148	105,680
September	70,784	74,767	73,157	75,222	85,315	87,007
3rd Quarter	242,850	242,888	250,147	246,557	288,133	283,350
Jan. to Sep.	699,262	712,919	714,322	732,361	840,611	857,832
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 - September of 2006 and 2007**

Country of disembarkation	Jan - Sep 2006	Jan - Sep 2007	% Change
EUROPE	54,441	58,611	7.7
France	23,710	25,235	6.4
Germany	1,763	2,123	20.4
Italy	3,002	3,497	16.5
Switzerland	1,768	1,865	5.5
United Kingdom	24,133	25,710	6.5
Other European	65	181	178.5
AFRICA	39,109	46,612	19.2
Malagasy Republic	5,485	6,954	26.8
Reunion	18,797	22,284	18.6
Seychelles	4,316	4,860	12.6
S. Africa, Rep. of	9,641	11,293	17.1
Zimbabwe	81	0	-100.0
Other African	789	1,221	54.8
ASIA	38,128	41,537	8.9
Hong Kong SAR ¹	7,512	8,749	16.5
India	14,121	14,562	3.1
Malaysia	514	997	94.0
Singapore	7,030	6,411	-8.8
Saudi Arabia	96	2	-97.9
United Arab Emirates	8,847	10,720	21.2
Other Asian	8	96	1,100.0
OCEANIA	5,555	6,943	25.0
Australia	5,555	6,943	25.0
Other Oceanian	0	0	-
AMERICA	29	28	-3.4
U.S.A	12	13	8.3
Canada	17	13	-23.5
Other American	0	2	-
NOT STATED	171	213	24.6
All Countries	137,433	153,944	12.0

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	77,225
August	60,746	64,307	69,941
September	53,233	56,138	65,542
<i>3rd Quarter</i>	<u>179,441</u>	<u>185,985</u>	<u>212,708</u>
<i>Jan. to Sep.</i>	528,752	546,122	644,821
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 - September of 2006 and 2007**

Purpose of visit	Jan - Sep 2006	Jan - Sep 2007	% Change
Holiday	488,475	580,808	18.9
Business	20,641	22,541	9.2
Transit	22,113	25,724	16.3
Conference	4,455	3,377	-24.2
Sports	2,218	482	-78.3
Other & Not Stated	8,220	11,889	44.6
Total	546,122	644,821	18.1

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

Country of residence	Jan - Sep 2006	2007 ¹										% Change Jan-Sep 2006 to Jan-Sep 2007
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jan - Sep	
EUROPE	345,661	59,365	56,288	55,903	47,638	38,015	29,720	46,132	42,213	42,505	417,779	20.9
Austria	7,044	1,521	1,878	1,524	797	539	278	498	368	535	7,938	12.7
Belgium	6,131	726	698	674	886	664	748	1,047	653	1,247	7,343	19.8
France	118,949	25,686	21,582	21,154	18,424	14,440	10,291	20,961	17,651	12,712	162,901	37.0
Germany	39,397	5,570	6,359	7,183	5,673	5,942	4,297	3,826	3,639	5,811	48,300	22.6
Italy	49,620	10,079	8,346	7,586	6,136	3,515	3,142	3,317	5,291	4,491	51,903	4.6
Netherlands	3,886	386	573	418	632	463	353	743	425	659	4,652	19.7
Spain	8,111	392	536	747	742	953	1,005	1,143	1,441	1,462	8,421	3.8
Sweden	2,555	1,515	1,697	1,439	396	190	176	168	142	194	5,917	131.6
Switzerland	9,675	1,416	1,544	1,303	1,540	1,021	718	1,068	714	1,691	11,015	13.9
United Kingdom	72,560	5,595	6,895	9,003	8,894	8,060	6,572	10,405	9,466	10,565	75,455	4.0
CIS ²	4,849	1,601	634	965	901	505	323	340	374	429	6,072	25.2
Other European	22,884	4,878	5,546	3,907	2,617	1,723	1,817	2,616	2,049	2,709	27,862	21.8
AFRICA	133,932	26,177	9,095	17,659	15,450	16,224	12,803	21,396	19,389	14,373	152,566	13.9
Comoros	631	34	47	53	51	66	60	73	47	51	482	-23.6
Kenya	1,183	82	126	137	120	126	183	187	187	125	1,273	7.6
Malagasy Rep.	5,288	564	541	612	658	733	750	966	974	603	6,401	21.0
Reunion	63,199	17,983	2,866	8,169	4,592	8,252	3,153	12,158	9,210	3,681	70,064	10.9
Seychelles	8,075	844	743	1,102	1,080	592	1,401	1,192	1,664	1,134	9,752	20.8
S. Africa, Rep. of	49,933	6,196	4,338	6,917	8,294	5,653	6,617	6,162	6,550	8,231	58,958	18.1
Zimbabwe	1,123	74	101	137	274	137	89	114	221	91	1,238	10.2
Other African	4,500	400	333	532	381	665	550	544	536	457	4,398	-2.3

Table 5 (contd.) : - Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, January - September 2006 and 2007

Country of residence	Jan - Sep 2006	2007 ¹										% Change Jan-Sep 2006 to Jan-Sep 2007
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jan - Sep	
ASIA	45,804	3,915	5,135	4,299	4,665	8,382	7,468	6,449	5,271	5,355	50,939	11.2
Hong Kong SAR ³	359	57	69	35	55	54	73	71	56	56	526	46.5
India	28,555	2,457	3,180	2,582	2,788	6,246	4,976	3,852	2,782	3,063	31,926	11.8
Japan	1,183	119	185	103	120	114	101	129	159	231	1,261	6.6
Malaysia	1,722	78	166	124	168	255	174	146	197	107	1,415	-17.8
P. Rep. of China	3,898	378	683	441	589	723	936	658	625	782	5,815	49.2
Singapore	1,330	84	148	95	160	220	297	162	121	160	1,447	8.8
United Arab Emirates	1,502	119	96	187	101	147	207	310	268	79	1,514	0.8
Other Asian	7,255	623	608	732	684	623	704	1,121	1,063	877	7,035	-3.0
OCEANIA	13,253	1,290	908	1,258	1,602	1,829	1,766	2,178	2,245	2,471	15,547	17.3
Australia	12,454	1,212	869	1,197	1,532	1,737	1,688	2,039	2,159	2,357	14,790	18.8
Other Oceanian	799	78	39	61	70	92	78	139	86	114	757	-5.3
AMERICA	6,927	857	843	784	873	786	776	972	783	806	7,480	8.0
USA	3,795	425	435	410	526	459	426	524	434	351	3,990	5.1
Canada	1,588	184	203	194	191	159	214	257	212	175	1,789	12.7
Other American	1,544	248	205	180	156	168	136	191	137	280	1,701	10.2
OTHER & N.STATED	545	24	69	62	69	65	51	98	40	32	510	-6.4
All Countries	546,122	91,628	72,338	79,965	70,297	65,301	52,584	77,225	69,941	65,542	644,821	18.1

¹ Provisional

² 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
	3rd Qr.	212,708	2,180	8,652

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	9,126	18,256
	3rd Qr.	93 ²	10,201	20,454

¹ Provisional² Excluding eight 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	71	63	56	50	58	52	74	67
August	64	57	69	62	74	67	67	60	73	66	77	70
September	63	57	67	60	75	67	67	60	71	63	78	70
<i>3rd Quarter</i>	<u>61</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>69</u>
<i>Jan. to Sep.</i>	60	54	63	56	75	67	62	56	66	59	78	70
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	20,233
Travel and Tourism	4,045	4,137	4,342	4,457	4,296
Total	21,860	22,613	25,377	25,798	26,322

¹ Revised

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:

- (i) Monthly tourist arrivals (by mid of each month)
- (ii) Quarterly Economic and Social Indicators on International Travel and Tourism (with a lag of seven weeks)
- (iii) Quarterly tourism statistics (Pamphlet)
- (iv) Digest of International Travel and Tourism (August)
- (v) Handbook of statistical data on tourism (August)
- (vi) 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.