

# INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURISM

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2008

## 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 2008 totalled 706,040, made up of 339,639 arrivals and 366,401 departures. Compared to the same period of year 2007, these figures represent increases of 12.8% in arrivals and 13.2% in departures. Movements by sea accounted for 6.0% of arrivals and 5.6% of departures. Further details on monthly figures are given in Table 1.

### 2.2 Excursionists

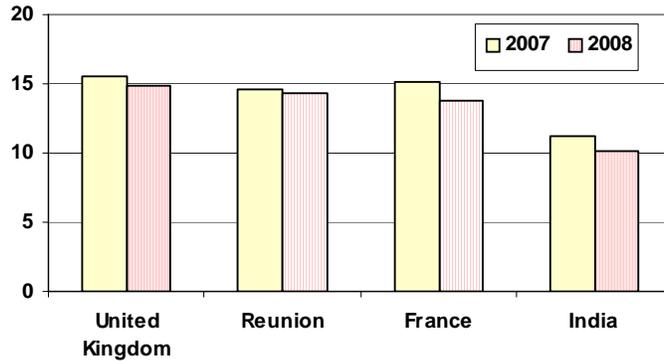
Total arrivals by air included 5,399 "excursionists", i.e. visitors arriving and leaving on the same day. Of these excursionists, 1,774 (32.9%) came from Reunion Island and 1,273 (23.6%), from France. Total arrivals by sea included 15,896 "cruise excursionists" (10,293 passengers and 5,603 crews) aboard 17 cruise ships, which visited our port during the first three months of 2008.

### 2.3 Mauritian Residents

During the period under review, the number of Mauritian residents travelling abroad went up by 23.9% to stand at 55,457 against 44,747 for the first quarter of 2007. The following increases were observed in the number of Mauritians visiting the major destinations: United Kingdom (+19.3%), Reunion Island (+22.1%), France (+12.8%), India (+11.8%), Republic of South Africa (+31.9%), Australia (+47.4%), United Arab Emirates (+25.8%), Hong Kong (+26.9%), Malagasy Republic (+39.9%), Singapore (+16.2%) and Seychelles (+14.5%).

Figure 1 shows the percentage distribution of Mauritian departures by major destinations for the period January to March of 2007 and 2008.

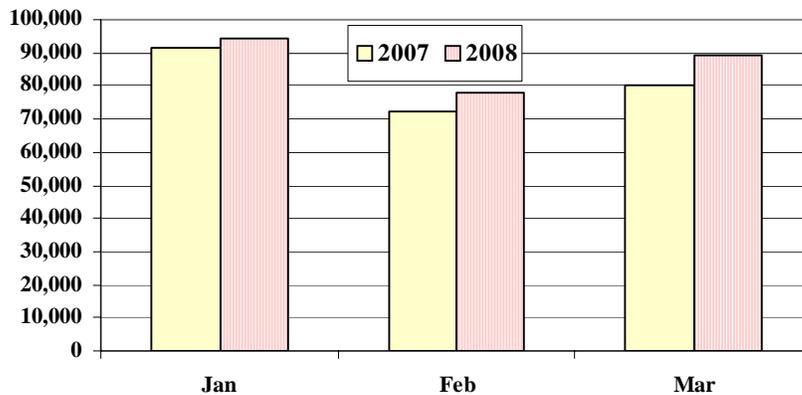
**Figure 1 - Percentage distribution of Mauritian departures by major destinations, January - March of 2007 and 2008**



#### **2.4 Tourist Arrivals**

Tourist arrivals for the first quarter of 2008 reached 261,494. This represents an increase of 7.2% over the figure of 243,931 registered in the corresponding quarter of 2007. Figure 2 shows monthly tourist arrivals for January to March of 2007 and 2008. Further details on tourist arrivals are given in Tables 3 to 6.

**Figure 2 - Monthly Tourist Arrivals, January - March of 2007 and 2008**



Around 89% of the tourists came mainly for holidays while 4.9% were in transit and another 3.0% were on business/conference trips (Table 4).

Arrivals from Europe, which accounted for 68.7% of total tourist arrivals, increased by 4.7% to reach 179,654 during the first quarter of 2008 against 171,556 in the corresponding quarter of 2007. Arrivals from France, our leading market representing 29.4% of total tourist arrivals and 42.8% of the European market, rose by 12.4% to attain 76,889 during this quarter. As regards the other major generating countries of Europe, the following performance was recorded: Arrivals from the United Kingdom increased by 11.9% whilst those from Germany and Italy fell by 6.6% and 7.5% respectively. Among the remaining European countries, the following trend was observed: Belgium (+42.9%), CIS (+30.4%), Spain (+20.2%), Switzerland (-0.4%), Netherlands (-9.6%), Sweden (-18.0%) and Austria (-26.5%).

During the first quarter of 2008, arrivals from Africa, with a share of 21.5% of total tourist arrivals, increased by 6.3% to 56,287. Arrivals from Reunion Island, the major market of the region, rose by 1.7% while those from Republic of South Africa were up by 14.5%. Changes in arrivals from other African countries were as follows: Malagasy Republic (+35.6%), Comoros (+25.4%), Zimbabwe (+11.9%), Kenya (-1.2%) and Seychelles (-23.3%).

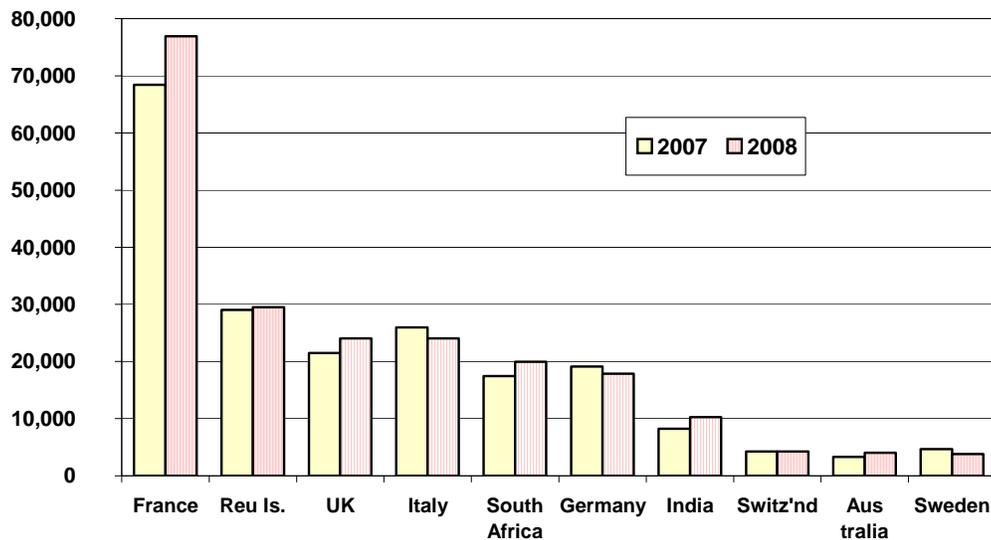
For the period under review, tourist arrivals from the Asian market, which represented 6.4% of total tourist arrivals, were up by 24.9% to attain 16,675. Arrivals from India, our major source on this continent, grew by 25.0% to reach 10,271. The performance of other Asian countries was as follows: People's Republic of China (+60.4%), United Arab Emirates (+41.8%), Singapore (+8.6%), Hong Kong (+6.2%), Japan (-4.4%) and Malaysia (-9.0%).

Arrivals from Oceania grew by 24.2% to 4,294 with increases of 23.6% from Australia and 36.5% from the "Other Oceanian countries".

Arrivals from the continent of America went up by 77.6% to reach 4,412, being the result of increases of 91.4% in arrivals from USA, 48.5% from Canada and 76.6% from "Other American countries".

Tourist arrivals from top ten markets for the period January to March of 2007 and 2008 are given in Figure 3.

**Figure 3 - Tourist Arrivals from Top Ten Markets,  
January - March of 2007 and 2008**



### 3. Tourist Nights

Total tourist nights spent in the country during the first three months of 2008 is estimated at 2.6 million, representing an increase of 4.9% over the same period of 2007 (Table 6).

### 4. Hotel Statistics

At the end of March 2008, there was a total of 96 registered hotels in operation. Owing to renovation, six hotels were not operational. The total room capacity for these registered hotels was 10,796 with 21,649 bed places (Table 7). The room occupancy rate for all hotels, for the first quarter of 2008, averaged 79% while the bed occupancy rate was 71% (Table 8).

“Large” hotels, i.e. well-established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms, numbered 42 (44% of all registered hotels). These hotels had a room capacity of 8,303 with 16,634 bed places, representing 77% of total room capacity and 77% of total bed places. The average room occupancy rate for these hotels for the first three months of 2008 was 80% while bed occupancy rate averaged 72% (Table 8).

## **5. Gross Tourism Receipts**

Data from the Bank of Mauritius indicate that gross tourism receipts for the first quarter of 2008 amounted to Rs11,951 million, i.e. an increase of 10.7% compared to Rs10,791 million for the same period of 2007 (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 that is 2.0% higher than the figure of 25,798 for March 2006. Of this number, 76.9% or 20,233 were engaged in hotels (Table 9).

## **7. Forecast Year 2008**

Based on information gathered from the main stakeholders of this sector and a growth of 7.2% observed during the first quarter of 2008, the forecast of tourist arrivals of 975,000 (+7.5%) is maintained for the year 2008.

According to the Bank of Mauritius tourism receipts for the year 2008 will be around Rs 48,000 million (+18.0 %) compared to Rs 40,687 million in 2007.

### **Central Statistics Office**

#### **Ministry of Finance and Economic Development**

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- I BRIEF ON COMPILATION OF PASSENGER TRAFFIC STATISTICS
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Table 1:- Passenger Traffic <sup>1</sup> by month, 2006 - 2008

Month	2006		2007		2008	
	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures
January	108,932	124,313	114,503	133,861	125,228	144,490
February	80,202	80,796	86,655	86,343	98,424	99,897
March	74,574	83,160	99,841	103,396	115,987	122,014
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>263,708</u>	<u>288,269</u>	<u>300,999</u>	<u>323,600</u>	<u>339,639</u>	<u>366,401</u>
April	74,092	72,052	92,982	94,269		
May	65,979	69,023	83,963	86,831		
June	60,396	56,460	74,534	69,782		
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>200,467</u>	<u>197,535</u>	<u>251,479</u>	<u>250,882</u>		
<b>1st Semester</b>	<b>464,175</b>	<b>485,804</b>	<b>552,478</b>	<b>574,482</b>		
July	90,862	76,408	106,670	90,663		
August	86,128	94,927	96,148	105,680		
September	73,157	75,222	85,315	87,007		
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>250,147</u>	<u>246,557</u>	<u>288,133</u>	<u>283,350</u>		
<b>Jan. to Sep.</b>	<b>714,322</b>	<b>732,361</b>	<b>840,611</b>	<b>857,832</b>		
October	91,891	85,930	101,362	101,361		
November	89,668	88,779	99,885	102,522		
December	120,983	97,636	135,373	114,415		
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>302,542</u>	<u>272,345</u>	<u>336,620</u>	<u>318,298</u>		
<b>2nd Semester</b>	<b>552,689</b>	<b>518,902</b>	<b>624,753</b>	<b>601,648</b>		
<b>Whole Year</b>	<b>1,016,864</b>	<b>1,004,706</b>	<b>1,177,231</b>	<b>1,176,130</b>		

<sup>1</sup> Excluding inter islands traffic

**Table 2 : - Departure of Mauritian residents by country of disembarkation,  
1st Quarter of 2007 and 2008**

Country of disembarkation	1st Quarter 2007	1st Quarter 2008	% Change
<b>EUROPE</b>	<b>15,843</b>	<b>19,120</b>	<b>20.7</b>
France	6,800	7,667	12.8
Germany	548	904	65.0
Italy	895	1,522	70.1
Switzerland	598	718	20.1
United Kingdom	6,929	8,267	19.3
Other European	73	42	-42.5
<b>AFRICA</b>	<b>13,854</b>	<b>17,392</b>	<b>25.5</b>
Malagasy Republic	1,787	2,500	39.9
Reunion	6,535	7,976	22.1
Seychelles	1,653	1,893	14.5
S. Africa, Rep. of	3,524	4,647	31.9
Other African	355	376	5.9
<b>ASIA</b>	<b>12,183</b>	<b>14,778</b>	<b>21.3</b>
Hong Kong SAR <sup>1</sup>	2,069	2,625	26.9
India	5,015	5,608	11.8
Malaysia	118	493	317.8
Singapore	2,052	2,384	16.2
United Arab Emirates	2,914	3,665	25.8
Other Asian	15	3	-80.0
<b>OCEANIA</b>	<b>2,740</b>	<b>4,040</b>	<b>47.4</b>
Australia	2,740	4,040	47.4
Other Oceanian	-	-	-
<b>AMERICA</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-82.6</b>
U.S.A	9	2	-77.8
Canada	12	2	-83.3
Other American	2	0	-100.0
<b>NOT STATED</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>18.3</b>
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>44,747</b>	<b>55,457</b>	<b>23.9</b>

<sup>1</sup> Special Administrative Region of China

**Table 3:- Tourist arrivals by month, 2006 - 2008**

Month	Number		
	2006	2007	2008 <sup>1</sup>
January	86,218	91,628	94,579
February	64,894	72,338	77,763
March	58,136	79,965	89,152
<i>1st Quarter</i>	<u>209,248</u>	<u>243,931</u>	<u>261,494</u>
April	57,361	70,297	
May	50,773	65,301	
June	42,755	52,584	
<i>2nd Quarter</i>	<u>150,889</u>	<u>188,182</u>	
<i>1st Semester</i>	<b>360,137</b>	<b>432,113</b>	
July	65,540	77,225	
August	64,307	69,941	
September	56,138	65,542	
<i>3rd Quarter</i>	<u>185,985</u>	<u>212,708</u>	
<i>Jan. to Sep.</i>	<b>546,122</b>	<b>644,821</b>	
October	75,451	81,244	
November	70,394	77,236	
December	96,309	103,670	
<i>4th Quarter</i>	<u>242,154</u>	<u>262,150</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<b>428,139</b>	<b>474,858</b>	
<b>Whole Year</b>	<b>788,276</b>	<b>906,971</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Provisional**Table 4 :- Tourist arrivals by main purpose of visit,  
1st Quarter of 2007 and 2008**

Purpose of visit	1st Quarter 2007	1st Quarter 2008	% Change
Holiday	224,114	233,385	4.1
Business	7,264	7,150	-1.6
Transit	9,005	12,724	41.3
Conference	726	681	-6.2
Sports	200	302	51.0
Other & Not Stated	2,622	7,252	176.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>243,931</b>	<b>261,494</b>	<b>7.2</b>

**Table 5 : - Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, January - March of 2007 and 2008**

Country of residence	1st Quarter 2007	2008 <sup>1</sup>				1st Quarter	% Change Q1 2007 to Q1 2008
		Jan	Feb	Mar			
<b>EUROPE</b>	<b>171,556</b>	<b>61,657</b>	<b>58,261</b>	<b>59,736</b>	<b>179,654</b>	<b>4.7</b>	
Austria	4,923	1,139	1,494	983	3,616	-26.5	
Belgium	2,098	857	813	1,327	2,997	42.9	
France	68,422	28,986	24,010	23,893	76,889	12.4	
Germany	19,112	5,281	5,641	6,936	17,858	-6.6	
Italy	26,011	8,467	7,854	7,729	24,050	-7.5	
Netherlands	1,377	456	415	374	1,245	-9.6	
Spain	1,675	451	615	947	2,013	20.2	
Sweden	4,651	1,570	1,293	951	3,814	-18.0	
Switzerland	4,263	1,361	1,402	1,483	4,246	-0.4	
United Kingdom	21,493	5,990	8,017	10,046	24,053	11.9	
CIS <sup>2</sup>	3,200	2,183	874	1,115	4,172	30.4	
Other European	14,331	4,916	5,833	3,952	14,701	2.6	
<b>AFRICA</b>	<b>52,931</b>	<b>25,948</b>	<b>9,950</b>	<b>20,389</b>	<b>56,287</b>	<b>6.3</b>	
Comoros	134	41	55	72	168	25.4	
Kenya	345	70	133	138	341	-1.2	
Malagasy Rep.	1,717	719	651	959	2,329	35.6	
Reunion	29,018	17,397	2,994	9,122	29,513	1.7	
Seychelles	2,689	583	673	806	2,062	-23.3	
S. Africa, Rep. of	17,451	6,530	4,855	8,594	19,979	14.5	
Zimbabwe	312	89	97	163	349	11.9	
Other African	1,265	519	492	535	1,546	22.2	
<b>ASIA</b>	<b>13,349</b>	<b>4,367</b>	<b>6,973</b>	<b>5,335</b>	<b>16,675</b>	<b>24.9</b>	
Hong Kong SAR <sup>3</sup>	161	33	88	50	171	6.2	
India	8,219	2,736	4,316	3,219	10,271	25.0	
Japan	407	109	174	106	389	-4.4	
Malaysia	368	86	161	88	335	-9.0	
P. Rep. of China	1,502	555	1,112	742	2,409	60.4	
Singapore	327	95	140	120	355	8.6	
United Arab Emirates	402	190	206	174	570	41.8	
Other Asian	1,963	563	776	836	2,175	10.8	
<b>OCEANIA</b>	<b>3,456</b>	<b>1,475</b>	<b>1,344</b>	<b>1,475</b>	<b>4,294</b>	<b>24.2</b>	
Australia	3,278	1,394	1,285	1,372	4,051	23.6	
Other Oceanian	178	81	59	103	243	36.5	
<b>AMERICA</b>	<b>2,484</b>	<b>1,078</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>2,134</b>	<b>4,412</b>	<b>77.6</b>	
USA	1,270	396	606	1,429	2,431	91.4	
Canada	581	241	280	342	863	48.5	
Other American	633	441	314	363	1,118	76.6	
<b>OTHER &amp; N.STATED</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>11.0</b>	
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>243,931</b>	<b>94,579</b>	<b>77,763</b>	<b>89,152</b>	<b>261,494</b>	<b>7.2</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Provisional<sup>2</sup> Commonwealth of Independent States (Ex Soviet Union Countries)<sup>3</sup> Special Administrative Region of China

**Table 6 :- Tourist arrivals, nights and receipts, 2005 - 2008**

Year		Tourist arrivals (Number)	Tourist nights (000)	Tourism receipts <sup>1</sup> (Rs million)
	2005	761,063	7,498	25,704
	2006	788,276	7,761	31,942
	2007	906,971	9,160	40,687
<b>2006</b>	1st Qr.	209,248	1,939	9,068
	2nd Qr.	150,889	1,327	6,383
	<b>1st Semester</b>	<b>360,137</b>	<b>3,266</b>	<b>15,451</b>
	3rd Qr.	185,985	1,904	6,607
	4th Qr.	242,154	2,591	9,884
	<b>2nd Semester</b>	<b>428,139</b>	<b>4,495</b>	<b>16,491</b>
<b>2007</b>	1st Qr.	243,931	2,430	10,791
	2nd Qr.	188,182	1,900	8,961
	<b>1st Semester</b>	<b>432,113</b>	<b>4,330</b>	<b>19,752</b>
	3rd Qr.	212,708	2,180	8,652
	4th Qr.	262,150	2,650	12,283
	<b>2nd Semester</b>	<b>474,858</b>	<b>4,830</b>	<b>20,935</b>
<b>2008</b> <sup>3</sup>	1st Qr.	261,494	2,550	11,951

<sup>1</sup> Source: Bank of Mauritius<sup>2</sup> Revised<sup>3</sup> Provisional**Table 7:- Hotels, rooms and bedplaces, 2005 - 2008**

Year	Number as at end of period			
	Hotels	Rooms	Bedplaces	
2005	99	10,497	21,072	
2006	98	10,666	21,403	
2007	97	10,857	21,788	
<b>2006</b>	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
<b>2007</b>	1st Qr.	97	10,683	21,509
	2nd Qr.	88	9,126	18,256
	3rd Qr.	93	10,201	20,454
	4th Qr.	97	10,857	21,788
<b>2008</b> <sup>1</sup>	1st Qr.	96 <sup>2</sup>	10,796	21,649

<sup>1</sup> Provisional<sup>2</sup> Excluding six hotels not operational because of renovation works

**Table 8 :- Monthly Occupancy Rates (%) for All Hotels and "Large" Hotels, 2006 - 2008**

Month	All Hotels						"Large" Hotels					
	2006		2007		2008 <sup>1</sup>		2006		2007		2008 <sup>1</sup>	
	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed
January	81	72	86	77	82	73	86	77	89	79	82	74
February	76	68	82	73	78	70	81	72	86	77	80	72
March	60	54	77	69	77	69	63	56	81	72	78	70
<i>1st Quarter</i>	<u>72</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>72</u>
April	58	52	75	67			61	55	80	72		
May	51	46	71	64			54	48	74	67		
June	45	41	59	53			47	42	62	56		
<i>2nd Quarter</i>	<u>51</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>61</u>			<u>54</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>65</u>		
<i>1st Semester</i>	<b>62</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>67</b>			<b>65</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>71</b>		
July	56	50	71	63			58	52	74	67		
August	69	62	74	67			73	66	77	70		
September	67	60	75	67			71	63	78	70		
<i>3rd Quarter</i>	<u>64</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>66</u>			<u>67</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>69</u>		
<i>Jan. to Sep.</i>	<b>63</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>67</b>			<b>66</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>70</b>		
October	73	65	78	70			76	68	81	72		
November	78	70	83	74			81	73	85	77		
December	79	71	80	72			81	73	80	72		
<i>4th Quarter</i>	<u>77</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>73</u>			<u>80</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>74</u>		
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<b>70</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>69</b>			<b>73</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>70</b>		
<b>Whole Year</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>68</b>			<b>69</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>70</b>		

<sup>1</sup> Provisional

**Table 9 :- Employment in the tourist industry as at end of March, 2003- 2007**

<b>Establishments \ Year</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,860</b>	<b>22,613</b>	<b>25,377</b>	<b>25,798</b>	<b>26,322</b>

*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