

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURISM

January to September 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 period January to September 2008 totalled 1,807,207, made up of 894,597 arrivals and 912,610 departures. Compared to the same period of year 2007, these figures represent increases of 6.4% in both arrivals and departures. Movements by sea accounted for 3.1% of arrivals and 3.0% of departures. Further details on monthly figures are given in Table 1.

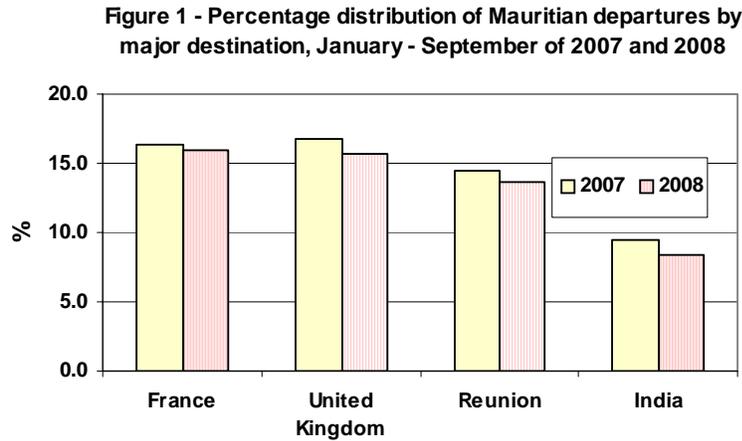
2.2 Excursionists

Total arrivals by air included 14,814 “excursionists”, i.e. visitors arriving and leaving on the same day. Of these excursionists, 4,402 (29.7%) came from Reunion Island and 3,771 (25.5%), from France. Total arrivals by sea included 17,017 “cruise excursionists” (10,930 passengers and 6,087 crews) aboard 18 cruise ships, which visited our port during the first nine months of 2008.

2.3 Mauritian Residents

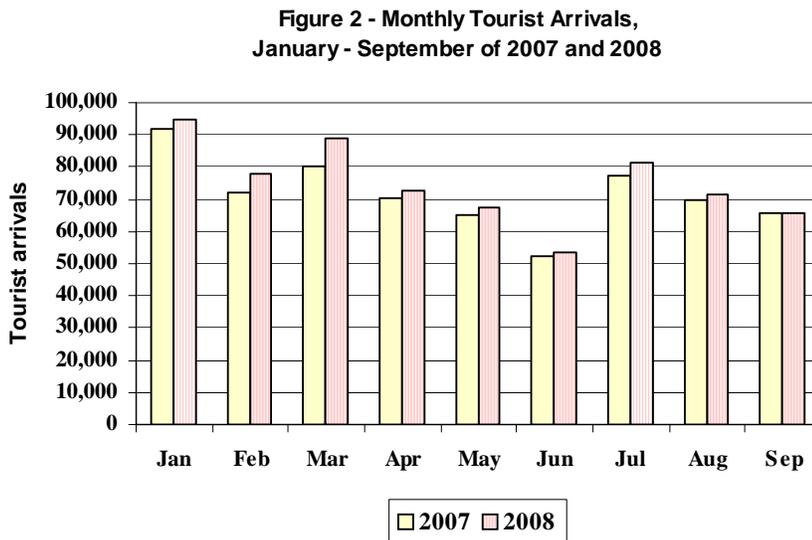
During the period under review, the number of Mauritian residents travelling abroad went up by 12.3% to 172,935 compared to 153,944 for the first nine months of 2007 (Table 2). The following changes were observed in the number of Mauritians visiting the major destinations: France (+9.3%), United Kingdom (+5.3%), Reunion Island (+6.5%), India (+0.3%), United Arab Emirates (+30.3%), Republic of South Africa (+22.5%), Australia (+48.4%), Hong Kong (+4.5%), Singapore (+13.9%), Malagasy Republic (+0.3%) and Seychelles (+24.6%).

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



2.4 Tourist Arrivals

Tourist arrivals for the first nine months of 2008 increased by 4.6% to reach 674,164 compared to 644,821 for the same period of 2007. Figure 2 shows monthly tourist arrivals for January to September of 2007 and 2008. Further details on tourist arrivals are given in Tables 3 to 6.



Around 88% of the tourists came for holidays while 4.3% were on business/conference trips and another 4.9% were in transit (Table 4).

Arrivals from Europe, which accounted for 64.3% of total tourist arrivals, increased by 3.8% to reach 433,690 during the first nine months of 2008 against 417,779 for the corresponding period of 2007. Arrivals from France, our leading market representing 26.8% of total tourist arrivals and 41.6% of the European market, rose by 10.8% to attain 180,574 during this period. Changes noted in the other three major generating countries of Europe were: United Kingdom (+5.7%), Italy (-5.0%) and Germany (-7.1%). Among the remaining European countries, the following trend was observed: Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) (+19.7%), Spain (+14.6%), Belgium (+8.7%), Netherlands (-2.8%), Switzerland (-10.7%), Sweden (-16.7%) and Austria (-18.8%).

During the first nine months of 2008, arrivals from Africa, with a share of 23.4% of total tourist arrivals, expanded by 3.3% to 157,533. Arrivals from Reunion Island and Republic of South Africa, the two major markets of the region, rose by 0.1% and 7.2% respectively. Changes in arrivals from other African countries were as follows: Malagasy Republic (+25.8%), Kenya (+20.0%), Comoros (+4.6%), Zimbabwe (+2.9%) and Seychelles (-24.4%).

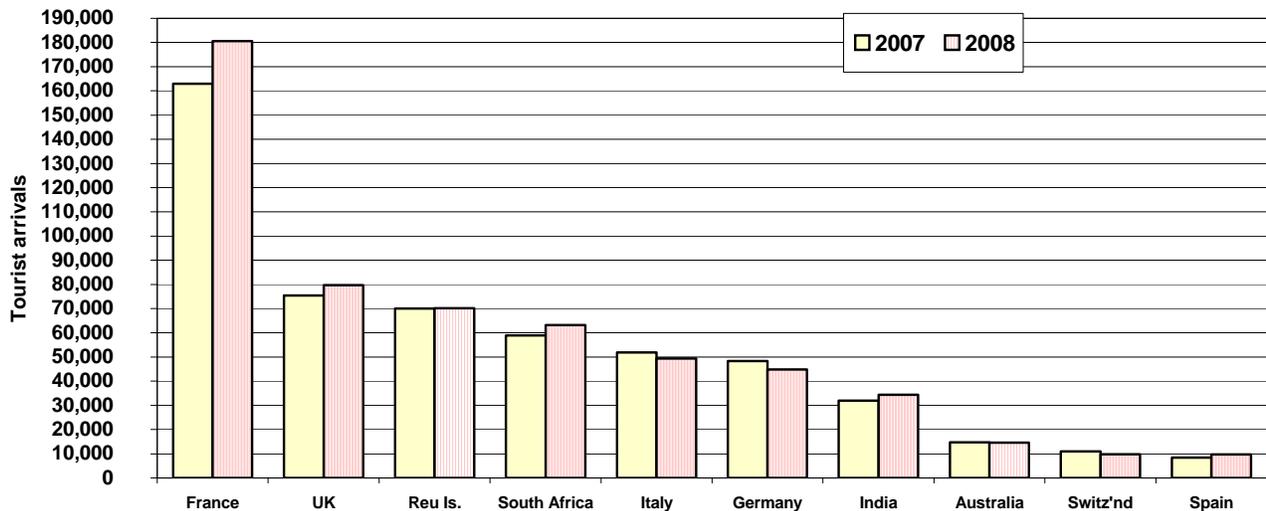
For the period under reference, tourist arrivals from the Asian market, which represented 8.3% of total tourist arrivals, went up by 10.1% to attain 56,064. Arrivals from India, our major source on this continent, grew by 7.7% to reach 34,386. The performance of other Asian countries was as follows: United Arab Emirates (+103.8%), People's Republic of China (+10.7%), Japan (+2.8%), Hong Kong (-9.7%), Singapore (-11.0%) and Malaysia (-20.1%).

Arrivals from Oceania during the reference period contracted by 1.0% from 15,547 in 2007 to 15,386 in 2008 due to a fall of 1.6% in arrivals from Australia, partly offset by an increase of 9.2% in arrivals from the other Oceanian countries.

Arrivals from the continent of America went up by 38.9% to 10,390, due to increases of 39.2% in arrivals from USA, 30.0% from Canada and 47.6% from "Other American" countries.

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

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



3. Tourist Nights

Total tourist nights spent in the country during the first nine months of 2008 is estimated at 6.4 million, showing an increase of 6.8% over the same period of the preceding year (Table 6).

4. Hotel Statistics

At the end of September 2008, there was a total of 99 registered hotels in operation. Owing to renovation works, five hotels were not operational. The total room capacity for these registered hotels was 10,933 with 21,939 bedplaces (Table 7). For the first nine months of 2008, the room occupancy rate for all hotels averaged 68% compared to 75% in 2007 while the bed occupancy rate was 61% against 67% for 2007 (Table 8).

“Large” hotels, i.e. well-established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms, numbered 43 (43% of all registered hotels). These hotels had a room capacity of 8,342 with 16,730 bedplaces, representing 76% of both total room capacity and total bedplaces. The average room occupancy rate for these hotels for the first nine months of 2008 was 70% and bed occupancy rate averaged 63% compared to 78% and 70% 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 2008 were Rs 30,801 million, i.e. an increase of 8.4% compared to Rs 28,404 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 28,129 at the end of March 2008 showing an increase of 6.9% over the figure of 26,322 for March 2007. Of this number, 21,439 or 76.2% were engaged in hotels (Table 9).

7. Forecast Year 2008

Based on data available on tourist arrivals for the first nine months of the year and information gathered from stakeholders, the forecast of tourist arrivals for the year 2008 has been revised downwards to 940,000, i.e. +3.6% over the figure of 906,971 in 2007.

According to the Bank of Mauritius, tourism receipts for the year 2008 will be around Rs 43,100 million (+5.9%) compared to Rs 40,687 million in 2007.

Central Statistics Office

Ministry of Finance and Economic Empowerment

Port Louis

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Contact person:

Mr. M. Lan Pin Wing
Senior Statistical Officer
Ministry of Tourism, Leisure and
External Communications
3rd Floor, Victoria House
Port Louis
Tel: 211-9042
Fax: 210-3901
Email: mlan-pin-wing@mail.gov.mu

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ANNEX

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

Table 1:- Passenger Traffic ¹ 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	96,210	97,364
May	65,979	69,023	83,963	86,831	87,375	96,647
June	60,396	56,460	74,534	69,782	76,627	63,360
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>200,467</u>	<u>197,535</u>	<u>251,479</u>	<u>250,882</u>	<u>260,212</u>	<u>257,371</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	<i>464,175</i>	<i>485,804</i>	<i>552,478</i>	<i>574,482</i>	<i>599,851</i>	<i>623,772</i>
July	90,862	76,408	106,670	90,663	112,508	91,931
August	86,128	94,927	96,148	105,680	98,044	113,039
September	73,157	75,222	85,315	87,007	84,194	83,868
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>250,147</u>	<u>246,557</u>	<u>288,133</u>	<u>283,350</u>	<u>294,746</u>	<u>288,838</u>
<i>Jan. to Sep.</i>	<i>714,322</i>	<i>732,361</i>	<i>840,611</i>	<i>857,832</i>	<i>894,597</i>	<i>912,610</i>
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>		
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<i>552,689</i>	<i>518,902</i>	<i>624,753</i>	<i>601,648</i>		
Whole Year	1,016,864	1,004,706	1,177,231	1,176,130		

¹ Excluding inter islands traffic

**Table 2 : - Departure of Mauritian residents by country of disembarkation,
January - September of 2007 and 2008**

Country of disembarkation	Jan - Sep 2007	Jan - Sep 2008	% Change
EUROPE	58,611	63,901	9.0
France	25,235	27,578	9.3
Germany	2,123	2,570	21.1
Italy	3,497	4,034	15.4
Switzerland	1,865	2,135	14.5
United Kingdom	25,710	27,081	5.3
Other European	181	503	177.9
AFRICA	46,612	52,042	11.6
Malagasy Republic	6,954	6,976	0.3
Reunion	22,284	23,725	6.5
Seychelles	4,860	6,055	24.6
S. Africa, Rep. of	11,293	13,831	22.5
Zimbabwe	0	0	-
Other African	1,221	1,455	19.2
ASIA	41,537	46,448	11.8
Hong Kong SAR ¹	8,749	9,146	4.5
India	14,562	14,605	0.3
Malaysia	997	1,257	26.1
Singapore	6,411	7,299	13.9
Saudi Arabia	2	28	1,300.0
United Arab Emirates	10,720	13,970	30.3
Other Asian	96	143	49.0
OCEANIA	6,943	10,300	48.4
Australia	6,943	10,300	48.4
Other Oceanian	0	0	-
AMERICA	28	32	14.3
U.S.A	13	5	-61.5
Canada	13	27	107.7
Other American	2	0	-100.0
NOT STATED	213	212	-0.5
All Countries	153,944	172,935	12.3

¹ Special Administrative Region of China

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

Month	Number		
	2006	2007	2008 ¹
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	72,837
May	50,773	65,301	67,705
June	42,755	52,584	53,722
<i>2nd Quarter</i>	<u>150,889</u>	<u>188,182</u>	<u>194,264</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	360,137	432,113	455,758
July	65,540	77,225	81,169
August	64,307	69,941	71,605
September	56,138	65,542	65,632
<i>3rd Quarter</i>	<u>185,985</u>	<u>212,708</u>	<u>218,406</u>
<i>Jan. to Sep.</i>	546,122	644,821	674,164
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>	428,139	474,858	
Whole Year	788,276	906,971	

¹ Provisional**Table 4 :- Tourist arrivals by main purpose of visit,
January - September of 2007 and 2008**

Purpose of visit	Jan - Sep 2007	Jan - Sep 2008	% Change
Holiday	580,808	591,086	1.8
Business	22,541	24,805	10.0
Transit	25,724	32,790	27.5
Conference	3,377	3,872	14.7
Sports	482	909	88.6
Other & Not Stated	11,889	20,702	74.1
Total	644,821	674,164	4.6

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

Country of residence	Jan - Sep 2007	2008 ¹										% Change Jan-Sep 2007 to Jan-Sep 2008
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jan - Sep	
EUROPE	417,779	61,657	58,261	59,736	48,536	40,294	30,749	47,004	44,415	43,038	433,690	3.8
Austria	7,938	1,139	1,494	983	599	506	280	486	385	576	6,448	-18.8
Belgium	7,343	857	813	1,327	579	783	794	1,154	768	910	7,985	8.7
France	162,901	28,986	24,010	23,893	21,978	17,408	11,877	21,789	17,339	13,294	180,574	10.8
Germany	48,300	5,281	5,641	6,936	4,849	5,837	3,542	3,598	3,925	5,271	44,880	-7.1
Italy	51,903	8,467	7,854	7,729	5,725	2,306	2,580	3,300	5,780	5,588	49,329	-5.0
Netherlands	4,652	456	415	374	595	587	361	702	438	594	4,522	-2.8
Spain	8,421	451	615	947	504	677	1,007	1,507	1,896	2,048	9,652	14.6
Sweden	5,917	1,570	1,293	951	259	158	162	255	119	159	4,926	-16.7
Switzerland	11,015	1,361	1,402	1,483	1,274	836	535	1,141	619	1,184	9,835	-10.7
United Kingdom	75,455	5,990	8,017	10,046	9,239	8,468	7,410	10,112	10,274	10,189	79,745	5.7
CIS ²	6,072	2,183	874	1,115	650	701	375	439	474	458	7,269	19.7
Other European	27,862	4,916	5,833	3,952	2,285	2,027	1,826	2,521	2,398	2,767	28,525	2.4
AFRICA	152,566	25,948	9,950	20,389	16,627	16,514	13,068	22,789	17,828	14,420	157,533	3.3
Comoros	482	41	55	72	55	61	48	70	59	43	504	4.6
Kenya	1,273	70	133	138	159	203	157	347	200	120	1,527	20.0
Malagasy Rep.	6,401	719	651	959	753	839	780	1,213	1,332	804	8,050	25.8
Reunion	70,064	17,397	2,994	9,122	4,076	8,149	3,462	13,173	8,130	3,647	70,150	0.1
Seychelles	9,752	583	673	806	963	826	1,004	876	885	756	7,372	-24.4
S. Africa, Rep. of	58,958	6,530	4,855	8,594	9,356	5,661	6,923	6,341	6,376	8,557	63,193	7.2
Zimbabwe	1,238	89	97	163	273	123	131	107	190	101	1,274	2.9
Other African	4,398	519	492	535	992	652	563	662	656	392	5,463	24.2

Table 5 (contd.) : - Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, January - September of 2007 and 2008

Country of residence	Jan - Sep 2007	2008 ¹										% Change Jan-Sep 2007 to Jan-Sep 2008
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jan - Sep	
ASIA	50,939	4,367	6,973	5,335	4,506	8,376	7,236	7,890	6,296	5,085	56,064	10.1
Hong Kong SAR ³	526	33	88	50	21	45	81	64	52	41	475	-9.7
India	31,926	2,736	4,316	3,219	2,672	6,378	5,109	4,236	3,075	2,645	34,386	7.7
Japan	1,261	109	174	106	131	97	98	185	213	183	1,296	2.8
Malaysia	1,415	86	161	88	123	108	122	167	166	110	1,131	-20.1
P. Rep. of China	5,815	555	1,112	742	530	582	552	895	685	783	6,436	10.7
Singapore	1,447	95	140	120	103	159	200	167	151	153	1,288	-11.0
United Arab Emirates	1,514	190	206	174	175	208	284	951	599	299	3,086	103.8
Other Asian	7,035	563	776	836	751	799	790	1,225	1,355	871	7,966	13.2
OCEANIA	15,547	1,475	1,344	1,475	1,936	1,535	1,460	2,176	1,967	2,018	15,386	-1.0
Australia	14,790	1,394	1,285	1,372	1,867	1,452	1,387	2,053	1,837	1,912	14,559	-1.6
Other Oceanian	757	81	59	103	69	83	73	123	130	106	827	9.2
AMERICA	7,480	1,078	1,200	2,134	1,154	891	1,037	1,080	860	956	10,390	38.9
USA	3,990	396	606	1,429	666	483	541	506	482	444	5,553	39.2
Canada	1,789	241	280	342	221	179	360	319	217	167	2,326	30.0
Other American	1,701	441	314	363	267	229	136	255	161	345	2,511	47.6
OTHER & N.STATED	510	54	35	83	78	95	172	230	239	115	1,101	115.9
All Countries	644,821	94,579	77,763	89,152	72,837	67,705	53,722	81,169	71,605	65,632	674,164	4.6

¹ Provisional

² Commonwealth of Independent States (Ex Soviet Union Countries)

³ Special Administrative Region of China

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

Year		Tourist arrivals (Number)	Tourist nights (000)	Tourism receipts ¹ (Rs million)
	2005	761,063	7,498	25,704
	2006	788,276	7,761	31,942
	2007	906,971	8,987	40,687
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	1st Qr.	243,931	2,297	10,791
	2nd Qr.	188,182	1,666	8,961
	1st Semester	432,113	3,963	19,752
	3rd Qr.	212,708	2,031	8,652
	4th Qr.	262,150	2,993	12,283
	2nd Semester	474,858	5,024	20,935
2008 ²	1st Qr.	261,494	2,550	11,951
	2nd Qr.	194,264	1,750	10,219
	1st Semester	455,758	4,300	22,170
	3rd Qr.	218,406	2,100	8,631

¹ Source: Bank of Mauritius² 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	
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	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
2008 ¹	1st Qr.	96	10,796	21,649
	2nd Qr.	94	10,503	21,063
	3rd Qr.	99 ²	10,933	21,939

¹ Provisional² Excluding five 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 ¹		2006		2007		2008 ¹	
	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	72	65	61	55	80	72	75	67
May	51	46	71	64	66	60	54	48	74	67	68	61
June	45	41	59	53	49	43	47	42	62	56	49	44
<i>2nd Quarter</i>	<u>51</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>57</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	62	55	75	67	71	63	65	59	79	71	72	65
July	56	50	71	63	61	55	58	52	74	67	62	56
August	69	62	74	67	65	58	73	66	77	70	67	60
September	67	60	75	67	65	58	71	63	78	70	68	61
<i>3rd Quarter</i>	<u>64</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>59</u>
<i>Jan. to Sep.</i>	63	56	75	67	68	61	66	59	78	70	70	63
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>	70	63	77	69			73	66	78	70		
Whole Year	66	59	76	68			69	62	78	70		

1 Provisional

Table 9 :- Employment in the tourist industry as at end of March, 2004 - 2008

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Establishments					
Restaurants	1,623	1,809	1,805	1,793	2,047
Hotels	16,853	19,226	19,536	20,233	21,439
Travel and Tourism	4,137	4,342	4,457	4,296	4,643
Total	22,613	25,377	25,798	26,322	28,129

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.