

International Travel and Tourism - 1st Semester 1996

1. Passenger Traffic

(i) Total

Total passenger traffic registered during the period January to June 1996 amounted to 572,900, representing an increase of 13.7% over the corresponding period of 1995. Total arrivals increased by 14.5% to 280,000 while total departures rose by 13% to 292,900. During this six-month period, there was an excess of 12,900 departures over arrivals.

Total arrivals included 5,000 "excursionists", i.e those arriving and leaving on the same day. Of these excursionists, 2,200 (43%) came from Reunion Island and 700 (13%) from France.

(ii) Mauritian residents

During the period under review, international movement of Mauritian residents was made up of 50,000 arrivals and 52,600 departures, representing an increase of 11% for both total arrivals and total departures . The major destinations were:- Reunion Island (30%), United Kingdom (14%), France (13%), India (9%), Republic of South Africa (8%), and Singapore (7%).

2. Tourist Arrivals

The total number of tourist arrivals registered during the first semester of 1996 amounted to 218,400, representing an increase of nearly 15% over the corresponding period of 1995. The performance of the first six months of 1996 is much better than the 3.3% increase registered when comparing the first semester of 1995 with 1994. This is mainly due to the recovery of the South African and U.K markets. Besides, the introduction of new or additional flights to some European countries has contributed to an increase in the number of tourist arrivals from emerging markets like Austria and Belgium.

Most (93%) of the tourists came on holidays while 4% came for business and 2% were in transit. The remaining 1% visited Mauritius for other purposes like attending conferences or participating in sports events.

The European market, which has kept its share of 58% of total tourist arrivals, remained upbeat with an increase of 15%. All generating sources from this continent, with the exception of Spain (-3%), have shown favourable growth. Among the traditional markets, France has maintained its first position with an increase of 12%, while the Italian market went up by 28%, the U.K market by 8% and the German market by 3%. Encouraging performances have been noted from the emerging markets - Austria, Belgium, Sweden, and Netherlands.

Tourist arrivals from Africa grew by 12%. Increase from our major short haul market, Reunion Island, was marginal (2%), while the Republic of South Africa registered a growth of 24% to 23,000. Arrivals from Malagasy Republic increased by 75% to 4,700 while those from Seychelles grew by 34% to reach 2,900 . On the other hand, arrivals from most of the minor African markets registered negative performances.

The Asian market sustained a growth of 22% with increases in all markets. India remains the major source of this continent, with 6,700 arrivals (+23%) . Arrivals from Hong Kong went up from 600 to 1,100 , while those from Japan increased from 1,600 to 1,700 .

Tourist arrivals from Oceania grew by 39% during the first semester of 1996, influenced mostly by Australia which increased from 2,270 to 3,200.

The American market went up by nearly 16%. Increase in arrivals from Canada reached 640 and from USA nearly 1,100.

3. Tourist Nights

Total tourist nights spent during the first semester is estimated at 2,291,000 , which is 15% higher than the corresponding figure of 1995.

4. Hotel Statistics

The number of registered hotels at the end of June 1996 was 92, with a total room capacity of 6,400 and bed capacity of 13,200. When compared to the corresponding period of 1995, these figures show increases of 8% in both number of rooms and number of beds.

The monthly room occupancy rates for the first semester averaged 65% for all hotels and 71% for large hotels only. The corresponding average bed occupancy rates were 57% and 63% respectively.

5. Gross Tourist Receipts

Gross earnings from tourism for the first six months of the year is estimated at Rs 4,250 million, which is 26% higher than the figure of Rs 3,363 million registered for the same period in 1995. The average earnings per tourist amounted to Rs 19,500.

6. Employment

At the end of March 1996, direct employment in tourist establishments employing 10 persons or more stood at 14,400, which is 4% higher than last year. Of this number, 67% or 9,700 were engaged in hotels.

7. Forecast

Based on the trend during the first six months of the year, it is estimated that tourist arrivals for the year 1996 will be around 470,000, i.e. an increase of nearly 11% over last year. Corresponding gross receipts from tourism is expected to be around 9,200 million rupees.

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Ministry of Economic Planning and Development
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Explanatory Notes

1. Tourist

A tourist is defined as a non-resident staying in the country for more than 24 hours but less than a year and is not involved in any gainful occupation during his/her stay.

2. Transit

Transit passengers are those who stop 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 port.

Type II: Passengers who leave the airport or port and stay in the country for more than 24 hours for only flight connection purposes.

Only Type II transit passengers, as defined above, are included in the definition of "Tourists".

3. Excursionist or Same-day Visitor

An excursionist is a non-resident who stays in the country for less than 24 hours, other than those who do not leave the airport.

4. Tourist Nights

Tourist nights are the total number of nights spent in the country by tourists during the period under review.

5. Large Hotels

Large hotels are well established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms.

Table 1:- Passenger Traffic by month 1994 - 1996

Month	1994		1995		1996	
	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures
January	52,652	60,384	52,976	63,363	53,912	63,611
February	34,478	38,941	33,869	34,812	38,913	41,492
March	40,099	37,363	42,045	43,615	51,665	47,443
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>127,229</u>	<u>136,688</u>	<u>128,890</u>	<u>141,790</u>	<u>144,490</u>	<u>152,546</u>
April	40,446	44,779	41,549	42,055	49,825	54,720
May	39,840	42,809	41,144	42,209	46,396	45,726
June	33,226	30,724	32,986	33,131	39,253	39,899
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>113,512</u>	<u>118,312</u>	<u>115,679</u>	<u>117,395</u>	<u>135,474</u>	<u>140,345</u>
1st Semester	240,741	255,000	244,569	259,185	279,964	292,891
July	44,863	37,654	47,760	38,320		
August	54,205	59,733	56,022	61,741		
September	38,611	39,332	39,065	41,035		
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>137,679</u>	<u>136,719</u>	<u>142,847</u>	<u>141,096</u>		
October	48,980	45,904	50,470	45,733		
November	44,666	46,528	49,691	53,748		
December	56,499	44,181	61,871	48,844		
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>150,145</u>	<u>136,613</u>	<u>162,032</u>	<u>148,325</u>		
2nd Semester	287,824	273,332	304,879	289,421		
Whole Year	528,565	528,332	549,448	548,606		

**Table 2 : - Departure of Mauritian Residents by country of disembarkation,
January to June 1995/1996**

Country of disembarkation	Jan. to June 1995	Jan. to June 1996	% Change
EUROPE	15,601	16,783	7.6
Belgium	184	245	33.2
France	5,961	7,068	18.6
Germany	766	704	-8.1
Italy	773	658	-14.9
Switzerland	741	711	-4.0
United Kingdom	7,091	7,247	2.2
Other European	85	150	76.5
AFRICA	20,564	23,279	13.2
Kenya	456	727	59.4
Malagasy Republic	1,044	1,150	10.2
Reunion	14,333	15,867	10.7
Seychelles	489	529	8.2
S. Africa, Rep. of	3,810	4,395	15.4
Zimbabwe	335	463	38.2
Other African	97	148	52.6
ASIA	9,478	10,758	13.5
Hong Kong	1,082	1,274	17.7
India	4,284	4,476	4.5
Malaysia	184	196	6.5
Singapore	3,334	3,556	6.7
Other Asian	594	1,256	111.4
OCEANIA	1,430	1,614	12.9
Australia	1,430	1,613	12.8
Other Oceanian		1	-
AMERICA	123	97	-21.1
U.S.A	38	40	5.3
Canada	85	57	-32.9
Other American			
NOT STATED	131	35	-73.3
All Countries	47,327	52,566	11.1

Table 3:- Selected tourism statistics, 1992 - 1996

Year	Number as at end of period			Tourist arrivals (Number)	Tourist nights (000)	Tourist receipts (Rs Mn)	
	Hotels	Rooms	Bedplaces				
1992	84	5,271	10,917	335,400	4,110	4,655	
1993	85	5,341	11,058	374,630	4,610	5,362	
1994	90	5,888	12,187	400,526	4,359	6,415	
1995	95	5,977	12,359	422,463	4,435	7,472	
1995	1st Qr.	90	5,888	12,187	102,153	1,072	1,815
	2nd Qr.	92	5,922	12,255	88,212	926	1,548
	<u>1st Semester.</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>5,922</u>	<u>12,255</u>	<u>190,365</u>	<u>1,998</u>	<u>3,363</u>
	3rd Qr.	94	5,977	12,359	105,746	1,110	1,868
	4th Qr.	95	5,977	12,359	126,352	1,326	2,241
	<u>2nd Semester</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>5,977</u>	<u>12,359</u>	<u>232,098</u>	<u>2,436</u>	<u>4,109</u>
1996*	1st Qr.	95	6,444	13,304	115,349	1,210	2,318
	2nd Qr.	92	6,404	13,219	103,046	1,081	1,932
	<u>1st Semester.</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>6,404</u>	<u>13,219</u>	<u>218,395</u>	<u>2,291</u>	<u>4,250</u>

* Figures for 1996 are provisional

Table 4 : - Tourist arrivals by main purpose of visit, Jan. to June 1996

Purpose of visit	Jan. to Mar.	Apr. to June	Jan. to June
Holiday	107,369	95,056	202,425
Business	3,791	4,714	8,505
Transit	2,985	2,085	5,070
Conference	635	645	1,280
Sports	225	208	433
Other & Not Stated	344	338	682
Total	115,349	103,046	218,395

Table 5:- Tourist arrivals by month, 1994 - 1996

Month	Number		
	1994	1995	1996
January	41,757	42,528	42,743
February	27,268	26,587	30,870
March	31,738	33,038	41,736
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>100,763</u>	<u>102,153</u>	<u>115,349</u>
April	30,350	34,428	38,759
May	30,685	30,607	36,303
June	22,537	23,177	27,984
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>83,572</u>	<u>88,212</u>	<u>103,046</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	<i>184,335</i>	<i>190,365</i>	<i>218,395</i>
July	32,211	33,833	
August	40,319	42,985	
September	28,605	28,928	
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>101,135</u>	<u>105,746</u>	
October	39,139	40,620	
November	35,037	39,437	
December	40,880	46,295	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>115,056</u>	<u>126,352</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<i>216,191</i>	<i>232,098</i>	
Whole Year	400,526	422,463	

Table 6 : - Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, January to June 1995/1996

Country of residence	January to March			April to June			January to June		
	1995	1996	% change	1995	1996	% change	1995	1996	% change
EUROPE	59,373	69,704	17.4	51,480	57,797	12.3	110,853	127,501	15.0
Austria	1,351	2,674	97.9	791	1,554	96.5	2,142	4,228	97.4
Belgium	1,058	1,849	74.8	1,178	1,864	58.2	2,236	3,713	66.1
France	29,304	33,228	13.4	23,216	25,811	11.2	52,520	59,039	12.4
Germany	10,871	12,022	10.6	9,512	9,057	-4.8	20,383	21,079	3.4
Italy	4,935	5,905	19.7	3,671	5,079	38.4	8,606	10,984	27.6
Netherlands	250	342	36.8	377	548	45.4	627	890	41.9
Spain	596	448	-24.8	716	827	15.5	1,312	1,275	-2.8
Sweden	535	917	71.4	259	379	46.3	794	1,296	63.2
Switzerland	2,913	3,776	29.6	2,570	2,917	13.5	5,483	6,693	22.1
United Kingdom	5,860	6,283	7.2	7,511	8,180	8.9	13,371	14,463	8.2
Commonwealth of Independent States	n.a	478	-	n.a	151	-	n.a	629	-
Other European	1,700	1,782	4.8	1,679	1,430	-14.8	3,379	3,212	-4.9
AFRICA	35,807	37,468	4.6	27,677	33,568	21.3	63,484	71,036	11.9
Comoros	326	262	-19.6	357	269	-24.6	683	531	-22.3
Kenya	208	151	-27.4	305	337	10.5	513	488	-4.9
Malagasy Rep.	1,221	1,875	53.6	1,442	2,797	94.0	2,663	4,672	75.4
Reunion	23,059	22,024	-4.5	12,971	14,827	14.3	36,030	36,851	2.3
Seychelles	667	965	44.7	1,538	1,982	28.9	2,205	2,947	33.7
S/ Africa Rep. of	8,972	11,121	24.0	9,312	11,532	23.8	18,284	22,653	23.9
Zambia	112	41	-63.4	96	100	4.2	208	141	-32.2
Zimbabwe	620	344	-44.5	1,037	796	-23.2	1,657	1,140	-31.2
Other African	622	685	10.1	619	928	49.9	1,241	1,613	30.0
ASIA	5,094	5,546	8.9	6,560	8,674	32.2	11,654	14,220	22.0
Hong Kong	372	545	46.5	243	512	110.7	615	1,057	71.9
India	1,831	2,002	9.3	3,659	4,726	29.2	5,490	6,728	22.6
Japan	930	1,001	7.6	643	668	3.9	1,573	1,669	6.1
Malaysia	224	296	32.1	283	269	-4.9	507	565	11.4
People's Rep. of China	501	318	-36.5	421	615	46.1	922	933	1.2
Singapore	684	723	5.7	745	736	-1.2	1,429	1,459	2.1
Other Asian	552	661	19.7	566	1,148	102.8	1,118	1,809	61.8
OCEANIA	970	1,370	41.2	1,465	2,009	37.1	2,435	3,379	38.8
Australia	897	1,276	42.3	1,377	1,935	40.5	2,274	3,211	41.2
Other Oceanian	73	94	28.8	88	74	-15.9	161	168	4.3
AMERICA	820	961	17.2	859	978	13.9	1,679	1,939	15.5
USA	482	562	16.6	526	527	0.2	1,008	1,089	8.0
Canada	248	306	23.4	274	333	21.5	522	639	22.4
Other American	90	93	3.3	59	118	100.0	149	211	41.6
OTHER & NOT STATED	89	300	237.1	171	20	-88.3	260	320	23.1
All Countries	102,153	115,349	12.9	88,212	103,046	16.8	190,365	218,395	14.7

Table 7:- Monthly room occupancy rates for all hotels, 1994 - 1996

Month	Occupancy rate (%)		
	1994	1995	1996*
January	75	72	72
February	67	62	67
March	65	64	69
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>69</u>
April	64	61	71
May	63	64	61
June	54	59	50
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>61</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	65	64	65
July	57	53	
August	66	69	
September	68	63	
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>62</u>	
October	70	74	
November	79	73	
December	64	71	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>73</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	67	67	
Whole Year	66	66	

* Provisional

Table 8:- Monthly bed occupancy rates for all hotels, 1994 - 1996

Month	Occupancy rate (%)		
	1994	1995	1996*
January	68	65	63
February	57	57	58
March	60	57	61
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>61</u>
April	59	54	62
May	57	55	54
June	48	52	43
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>53</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	59	57	57
July	52	48	
August	61	64	
September	61	57	
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>57</u>	
October	66	68	
November	69	68	
December	60	62	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>66</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	61	61	
Whole Year	60	59	

* Provisional

Table 9:-Monthly room occupancy rates for large hotels, 1994 - 1996

Month	Occupancy rate (%)		
	1994	1995	1996*
January	82	78	80
February	77	72	77
March	73	71	76
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>78</u>
April	74	72	76
May	71	72	65
June	61	58	53
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>65</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	73	71	71
July	64	61	
August	70	75	
September	76	73	
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>70</u>	
October	80	87	
November	90	83	
December	70	77	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>83</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	75	76	
Whole Year	74	73	

* Provisional

Table 10 :- Monthly bed occupancy rates for large hotels, 1994 - 1996

Month	Bed occupancy rate (%)		
	1994	1995	1996*
January	74	72	71
February	70	67	68
March	69	65	67
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>69</u>
April	70	66	67
May	66	64	57
June	56	51	47
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>57</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	67	64	63
July	61	57	
August	66	71	
September	71	67	
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>65</u>	
October	78	80	
November	81	80	
December	66	69	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>77</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	70	71	
Whole Year	69	67	

* Provisional

Table 11:- Employment in the tourist industry as at March, 1992 - 1996

Establishments \ Year	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Restaurants	772	850	1,157	1,000	1,154
Hotels	7,592	8,271	9,082	9,340	9,666
Travel and Tourism	2,887	3,310	3,419	3,515	3,596
Total	11,251	12,431	13,658	13,855	14,416

Note: The above figures refer to large establishments only (i.e. employing 10 or more persons)