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1. International Travel and Tourism, 1st Semester 1997
2. Survey of Employment and Earnings in Large Establishments

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MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
PORT LOUIS
MAURITIUS

International Travel and Tourism, 1st Semester 1997

1. Passenger Traffic

(i) Total

Total passenger traffic for the first semester of 1997 amounted to 644,200, made up of 315,600 arrivals and 328,600 departures. Compared to the same period of last year, these figures represent increase of 13% in arrivals and 12% in departures. Table 1 shows monthly details of passenger traffic.

Total arrivals included 4,100 "excursionists", i.e. persons arriving and leaving on the same day. Of these excursionists, 1,450 (35%) came from Reunion Island and 590 (14%) from France.

(ii) Mauritian residents

The number of Mauritians travelling abroad increased by 14% from 52,600 for the first six months of 1996 to 60,000 for the same period in 1997, thus representing 18% of total departures. The major countries visited were: Reunion Island (29%), France (14%), United Kingdom (12%), Republic of South Africa (9%) and India(9%). A more elaborate distribution of countries visited is presented in Table 2.

2. Tourist Arrivals

Tourist arrivals during the first semester rose by 12% from 218,400 in 1996 to 245,300 in 1997. This increase is mainly attributable to significant growths from some major markets mainly Italy (+56%), UK (+33%) and France (+11%). Besides, the exploitation of small markets namely Commonwealth of Independent States*(+87%), Malaysia (+78%), Zimbabwe (+70%) and Other European Countries(+60%), has also helped in this achievement.

Most (92%) of the tourists came on holidays while 5% came for business and 2% were in transit.

* *Ex-Soviet Union countries*

Tourism from Europe, which accounted for 61% of total tourist arrivals, has witnessed an increase of 18% for the period under review, from 127,500 in 1996 to 149,900 in 1997. The Italian market has maintained an upward trend with an increase of 56% from 11,000 arrivals in the first semester of 1996 to 17,100 in the corresponding period of 1997, mainly explained by the introduction of additional flights since the beginning of the year. Due to intensive marketing campaigns, the UK has also shown a growth of 33% to stand at 19,200. Tourist arrivals from France, which remains our main source, increased by 11% to reach 65,800 as shown in Chart 2. On the other hand, arrivals from Germany and Switzerland remained almost stable. Among the small markets, the following performance was registered:- Austria (+11%), Sweden (+67%), Netherlands (+49%) and Commonwealth of Independent States (+87%).

Africa, with a share of 30%, registered a growth of 3% with the Zimbabwean market going up by 70% for the first semester from 1,100 to 1,900. From the Republic of South Africa, an increase of 2% was noted while Reunion Island(-0.2%) remained relatively at the same level as last year.

Our Asian market registered an overall growth of 10%. India remained the major source from this region with a growth of 5% to reach 7,100. Malaysia has known a growth of 78% from 600 to 1,000 while Hong Kong witnessed a drop of 15% to stand at 900.

Oceania registered a growth rate of 33% mainly influenced by the performance of Australia. In fact, this particular market rose by 35% from 3,200 for the first semester of 1996 to 4,300 for the same period this year.

As regards America, an increase of 26% was observed, with USA and Canada showing growths of +21% and +30% respectively.

3. Tourist Nights

Total tourist nights spent in the country during the first semester 1997 is estimated at 2.5 million, which is 11% higher than the corresponding figure of 1996.

4. Hotel Statistics

At the end of June 1997, there were 90 registered hotels in operation of which 26 are considered "large", i.e. well established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms. The total room capacity for all registered hotels was 6,727 and 13,950 bedplaces while for large hotels the room capacity was 4,540 and 9,236 bedplaces.

The monthly room occupancy rates for the first semester averaged 66% for all hotels and 76% for large hotels only. The corresponding average bed occupancy rates were 58% and 67%.

5. Gross Tourist Receipts

Gross earnings from tourism for the first six months of the year is estimated at 4,610 million rupees, which is 8% higher than the figure of 4,250 million rupees registered for the same period in 1996. The average earning per tourist amounted to Rs 18,800 compared to Rs 19,500 for the same period last year.

6. Employment

As at end of March 1997, direct employment in tourist establishments employing 10 persons or more stood at 15,400, which is 7% higher than last year. Of this number, 69% or 10,600 were engaged in hotels.

7. Forecast

Considering the trend during the first six months of the year, it is estimated that tourist arrivals for the year 1997 will be around 550,000, i.e. an increase of nearly 13% over last year. Corresponding gross receipt from tourism is expected to be around 10,500 million rupees compared to 9,048 million rupees last year.

Central Statistical Office

Ministry of Economic Development and Regional Cooperation

PORT LOUIS

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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.

6. CIS

CIS denotes the Commonwealth of Independent States which consists of the states of the former Soviet Union.

Table 1:- Passenger Traffic by month 1995 - 1997

Month	1995		1996		1997	
	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures
January	52,976	63,363	53,912	63,611	62,422	72,961
February	33,869	34,812	38,913	41,492	45,956	48,704
March	42,045	43,615	51,665	47,443	58,264	59,468
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>128,890</u>	<u>141,790</u>	<u>144,490</u>	<u>152,546</u>	<u>166,642</u>	<u>181,133</u>
April	41,549	42,055	49,825	54,720	51,506	51,635
May	41,144	42,209	46,396	45,726	52,191	51,419
June	32,986	33,131	39,253	39,899	45,240	44,457
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>115,679</u>	<u>117,395</u>	<u>135,474</u>	<u>140,345</u>	<u>148,937</u>	<u>147,511</u>
1st Semester	244,569	259,185	279,964	292,891	315,579	328,644
July	47,760	38,320	48,602	39,817		
August	56,022	61,741	65,588	71,365		
September	39,065	41,035	48,790	49,907		
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>142,847</u>	<u>141,096</u>	<u>162,980</u>	<u>161,089</u>		
October	50,470	45,733	57,262	51,312		
November	49,691	53,748	58,536	59,987		
December	61,871	48,844	71,498	56,633		
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>162,032</u>	<u>148,325</u>	<u>187,296</u>	<u>167,932</u>		
2nd Semester	304,879	289,421	350,276	329,021		
Whole Year	549,448	548,606	630,240	621,912		

Table 2 : - Departure of Mauritian Residents by country of disembarkation,

January - June 1996/1997

Country of disembarkation	January - June 1996	January - June 1997	% Change
EUROPE	16,783	19,108	13.9
Belgium	245	370	51.0
France	7,068	8,137	15.1
Germany	704	586	-16.8
Italy	658	1,416	115.2
Switzerland	711	861	21.1
United Kingdom	7,247	7,431	2.5
Other European	150	307	104.7
AFRICA	23,279	26,325	13.1
Kenya	727	722	-0.7
Malagasy Republic	1,150	1,327	15.4
Reunion	15,867	17,528	10.5
Seychelles	529	670	26.7
S. Africa, Rep. of	4,395	5,457	24.2
Zimbabwe	463	556	20.1
Other African	148	65	-56.1
ASIA	10,758	12,468	15.9
Hong Kong	1,274	1,569	23.2
India	4,476	5,133	14.7
Malaysia	196	256	30.6
Singapore	3,556	3,759	5.7
Saudi Arabia	1,209	1,617	33.7
Other Asian	47	134	185.1
OCEANIA	1,614	1,851	14.7
Australia	1,613	1,850	14.7
Other Oceanian	1	1	0.0
AMERICA	97	151	55.7
U.S.A	40	37	-7.5
Canada	57	111	94.7
Other American	-	3	
NOT STATED	35	61	74.3
ALL COUNTRIES	52,566	59,994	14.1

Table 3:- Selected tourism statistics, 1993 - 1997

Year	Number as at end of period			Tourist arrivals (Number)	Tourist nights (000)	Tourist receipts (Rs million)		
	Hotels	Rooms	Bedplaces					
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		
1996	90	6,668	13,833	486,867	4,958	9,048		
1996	1st Qr.	95	6,357	13,133	115,349	1,174	2,318	
	2nd Qr.	91	6,407	13,308	103,046	1,050	1,932	
	<u>1st Semester</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>6,407</u>	<u>13,308</u>	<u>218,395</u>	<u>2,224</u>	<u>4,250</u>	
	3rd Qr.	90	6,382	13,259	122,684	1,250	2,106	
	4th Qr.	<u>90</u>	6,668	13,833	145,788	1,484	2,692	
	<u>2nd Semester</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>6,668</u>	<u>13,833</u>	<u>268,472</u>	<u>2,734</u>	<u>4,798</u>	
	1997	1st Qr.	90	6,661	13,818	134,684	1,350 *	2,593 *
	2nd Qr.	90	6,727	13,950	110,642	1,120 *	2,017 *	
	<u>1st Semester</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>6,727</u>	<u>13,950</u>	<u>245,326</u>	<u>2,470 *</u>	<u>4,610 *</u>	

* Provisional

Table 4 : - Tourist arrivals by main purpose of visit, 1996/1997

Purpose of visit	Jan - June 1996	Jan - June 1997	% Change
Holiday	202,425	224,795	11.1
Business	8,505	9,277	9.1
Transit	5,070	5,891	16.2
Conference	1,280	2,417	88.8
Sports	433	619	43.0
Other & Not Stated	682	2,327	241.2
Total	218,395	245,326	12.3

Table 5:- Tourist arrivals by month, 1995 - 1997

Month	Number		
	1995	1996	1997
January	42,528	42,743	50,507
February	26,587	30,870	37,254
March	33,038	41,736	46,923
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>102,153</u>	<u>115,349</u>	<u>134,684</u>
April	34,428	38,759	38,683
May	30,607	36,303	39,794
June	23,177	27,984	32,165
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>88,212</u>	<u>103,046</u>	<u>110,642</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	<i>190,365</i>	<i>218,395</i>	<i>245,326</i>
July	33,833	35,656	
August	42,985	50,347	
September	28,928	36,681	
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>105,746</u>	<u>122,684</u>	
October	40,620	45,930	
November	39,437	46,130	
December	46,295	53,728	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>126,352</u>	<u>145,788</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<i>232,098</i>	<i>268,472</i>	
Whole Year	422,463	486,867	

**Chart 1 - Monthly Distribution of Tourist Arrivals
1st Semester 1996/97**

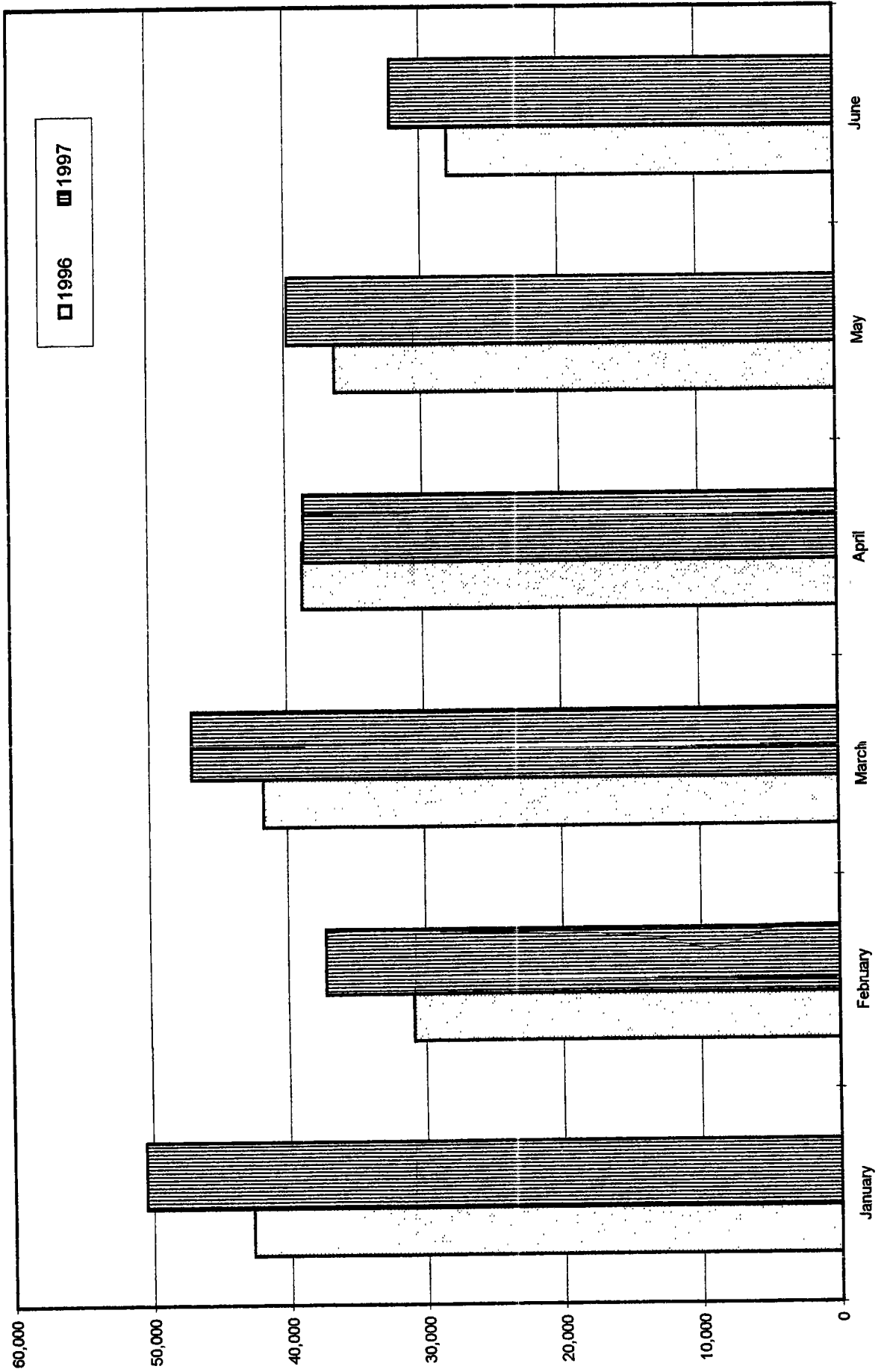


Table 6 : Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, 1st Semester 1996/1997

Country of residence	1st Semester 1997						January - June		% Change
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	1996	1997	
EUROPE	28,076	26,861	28,827	25,442	21,883	18,832	127,501	149,921	17.6
Austria	1,181	1,046	751	639	718	366	4,228	4,701	11.2
Belgium	571	679	738	765	456	483	3,713	3,692	-0.6
France	12,547	12,052	11,874	11,999	9,134	8,167	59,039	65,773	11.4
Germany	4,712	3,485	4,717	3,256	3,816	1,837	21,079	21,823	3.5
Italy	3,464	3,511	3,674	2,903	1,297	2,167	10,984	17,116	55.8
Netherlands	177	171	274	286	216	203	890	1,327	49.1
Spain	131	151	268	175	487	205	1,275	1,417	11.1
Sweden	447	472	529	377	167	172	1,296	2,164	67.0
Switzerland	1,344	1,164	1,249	1,016	995	720	6,693	6,488	-3.1
United Kingdom	2,148	2,913	3,552	2,968	3,915	3,676	14,463	19,172	32.6
CIS	387	123	173	121	121	254	629	1,179	87.4
Other European	967	994	1,028	937	561	582	3,212	5,069	57.8
AFRICA	19,742	6,331	14,912	9,854	13,456	8,561	71,036	72,856	2.6
Comoros	57	70	82	81	75	81	531	446	-16.0
Kenya	88	54	137	131	68	83	488	561	15.0
Malagasy Rep.	601	677	783	752	977	946	4,672	4,736	1.4
Reunion	14,399	2,196	7,567	2,628	7,693	2,301	36,851	36,784	-0.2
Seychelles	489	286	353	928	596	563	2,947	3,215	9.1
S/ Africa Rep. of	3,685	2,626	5,258	4,256	3,372	3,917	22,653	23,114	2.0
Zimbabwe	188	163	358	675	329	223	1,140	1,936	69.8
Other African	235	259	374	403	346	447	1,754	2,064	17.7

Table 6 : Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, 1st Semester 1996/1997 (ctd.)

Country of residence	1st Semester 1997						January - June		
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	1996	1997	% Change
ASIA	1,876	3,094	2,051	2,188	2,940	3,421	14,220	15,570	9.5
Hong Kong	117	308	137	121	91	121	1,057	895	-15.3
India	794	1,041	688	886	1,882	1,760	6,728	7,051	4.8
Japan	230	516	240	291	208	226	1,669	1,711	2.5
Malaysia	75	201	238	169	149	175	565	1,007	78.2
People's Rep. of China	96	125	172	190	171	249	933	1,003	7.5
Singapore	243	337	235	179	202	451	1,459	1,647	12.9
Other Asian	321	566	341	352	237	439	1,809	2,256	24.7
OCEANIA	471	583	679	762	1,080	932	3,379	4,507	33.4
Australia	438	542	662	741	1,055	896	3,211	4,334	35.0
Other Oceanian	33	41	17	21	25	36	168	173	3.0
AMERICA	339	377	450	430	431	418	1,939	2,445	26.1
USA	175	175	299	224	246	197	1,089	1,316	20.8
Canada	126	161	123	138	109	173	639	830	29.9
Other American	38	41	28	68	76	48	211	299	41.7
Other & not stated	3	8	4	7	4	1	320	27	-91.6
All Countries	50,507	37,254	46,923	38,683	39,794	32,165	218,395	245,326	12.3

Chart 2 - Tourist Arrivals from Top Ten Markets - 1st Semester 1996/97

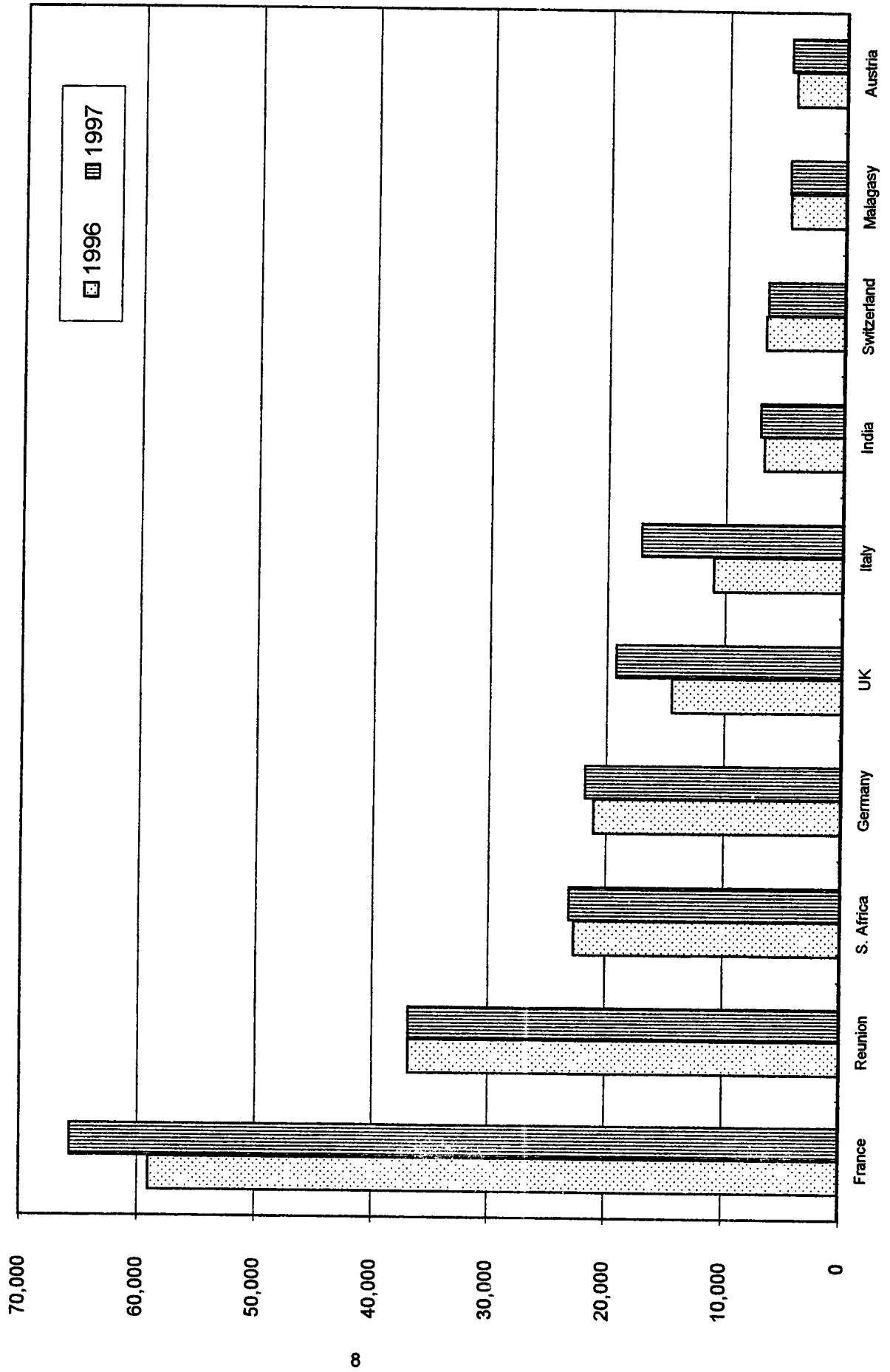


Table 7:- Monthly room occupancy rates for all registered hotels, 1995- 1997

Month	Occupancy rate (%)		
	1995	1996*	1997*
January	72	72	76
February	62	67	68
March	64	69	64
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>69</u>
April	61	71	69
May	64	61	65
June	59	50	53
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>62</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	64	65	66
July	53	55	
August	69	69	
September	63	70	
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>64</u>	
October	74	77	
November	73	33	
December	71	76	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>79</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	67	71	
Whole Year	66	68	

* Provisional

Table 8:- Monthly bed occupancy rates for all registered hotels, 1995 - 1997

Month	Occupancy rate (%)		
	1995	1996*	1997*
January	65	63	67
February	57	58	60
March	57	61	56
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>61</u>
April	54	62	60
May	55	54	56
June	52	43	46
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>54</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	57	57	58
July	48	48	
August	64	60	
September	57	60	
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>56</u>	
October	68	69	
November	68	73	
December	62	66	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>69</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	61	62	
Whole Year	59	60	

* Provisional

Table 9:-Monthly room occupancy rates for large hotels, 1995 - 1997

Month	Occupancy rate (%)		
	1995	1996*	1997*
January	78	80	85
February	72	77	84
March	71	76	78
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>82</u>
April	72	76	76
May	72	65	72
June	58	53	58
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>69</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	71	71	76
July	61	60	
August	75	72	
September	73	77	
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>69</u>	
October	87	83	
November	83	88	
December	77	79	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>83</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	76	76	
Whole Year	73	74	

* Provisional

Table 10 :- Monthly bed occupancy rates for large hotels, 1995 - 1997

Month	Bed occupancy rate (%)		
	1995	1996*	1997*
January	72	71	75
February	67	68	74
March	65	67	69
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>73</u>
April	66	67	67
May	64	57	63
June	51	47	52
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>61</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>67</i>
July	57	53	
August	71	63	
September	67	68	
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>61</u>	
October	80	76	
November	80	79	
December	69	70	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>74</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>67</i>	
Whole Year	67	65	

* Provisional

Table 11:- Employment in the tourist industry as at March, 1993 - 1997

Establishments \ Year	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Restaurants	850	1,157	1,000	1,154	1,118
Hotels	8,271	9,082	9,340	9,666	10,575
Travel and Tourism	3,310	3,419	3,515	3,596	3,732
Total	12,431	13,658	13,855	14,416	15,425

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