

International Travel & Tourism, January to September 1998

1. Passenger Traffic

(i) Total

Total passenger traffic registered during the period January to September 1998 totalled to 1,073,200 representing an increase of 5% over the corresponding period of 1997. Total arrivals increased by 5% to 528,700 while total departures rose by 6% to 544,500, resulting in an excess of 15,800 of departures over arrivals.

Total arrivals included 5,891 "excursionists", i.e. passengers arriving and leaving on the same day. Of these excursionists, 1,913 (32%) came from Reunion Island and 1,090 (19%) from France. Total arrivals also included 9,934 "cruise excursionists" (5,726 passengers and 4,208 crews) who visited our port aboard 14 cruise ships during the first nine months of the year.

(ii) Mauritian Residents

During the period under review, the number of Mauritians travelling abroad has increased by 7% from 97,400 in 1997 to 104,500 in 1998. The most popular destination was Reunion Island with 32% of departures followed by France (14%), United Kingdom (9%), Republic of South Africa (8%), India (7%) and Singapore (7%).

(iii) Tourist Arrivals

During the first nine months of the year 1998, tourist arrivals have registered an increase of 5% to reach a figure of 399,400 compared to 379,800 for the corresponding period in 1997. This growth was mainly the result of increases in some major markets like France, United Kingdom, Italy and Republic of South Africa which was, however, mitigated by drops in Asian markets.

Around 91% of the tourists came mainly for holidays while 4% were on business trips and another 3% were in transit.

Arrivals from Europe, with a share of 61% of total tourist arrivals, have known an increase of 10% from 224,000 in 1997 to 245,300 in 1998 for the period under review. This was mainly due to growth in our leading generating market, France which has known an increase of 15% to reach 110,900. Appreciable growths were also registered from the major generating countries: United Kingdom (+14%) and Italy (+5%). Other increases were observed from Switzerland (+9%), Spain (+25%), Netherlands (+8%), and CIS (+6%). On the other hand, some regressions in arrivals were noted:- Germany (-2%), Austria (-7%) and Sweden (-19%).

Tourist arrivals from Africa, with a share 31% of the total, have remained rather stable at 122,000 when compared to the same period of last year. Arrivals from Reunion Island have known a slight drop from 63,700 in 1997 to 63,500 in 1998 while arrivals from Republic of South Africa increased by 4% to reach 37,500. Changes from other African countries were as follows:- Kenya (+29%), Seychelles (-5%), Malagasy Republic (-10%).

Arrivals from Asia have declined by 9%. While increases were registered for Singapore (+7%) and People's Republic of China (+15%), arrivals from India dropped by 2% for the period under review. Declines were also noted in other Asian markets:- Japan (-27%), Malaysia (-36%) and Hong Kong (-39%).

Arrivals from Oceania have decreased by 3%, mostly reflecting a 4% drop in tourists from Australia.

The American market recorded a growth of 6% when compared to the corresponding period of last year. This was the net effect of an 8% increase from USA and a decline of 13% from Canada.

2. Tourist Nights

Total tourist nights spent in the country during the first nine months of 1998 is estimated at 4.2 million, that is 8% higher than the corresponding figure of 1997.

3. Hotel Statistics

At the end of September 1998, there were 89 registered hotels in operation, of which 27 were considered "Large", i.e. well-established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms. The total capacity for all registered hotels was 7,074 rooms with 14,639 bedplaces. For "Large" hotels the room capacity was 4,787 with 9,788 bedplaces.

The monthly room occupancy rate for the period January to September 1998 averaged 70% for all hotels whereas bed occupancy rate was 61%. For large hotels, the corresponding figure was 75% for room occupancy rate and 66% for bed occupancy rate. For further details on hotel statistics, refer to tables 7 to 10.

4. Gross Tourism Receipts

Gross earnings from tourism for the first nine months of the year amounted to 8,282 million rupees, which is 19% higher than the figure of 6,982 million rupees registered for the same period of 1997. Thus, the average earning per tourist amounted to 20,700 rupees compared to 18,400 rupees for the same period of last year, i.e. an increase of 13%.

5. Employment

At the end of March 1998, direct employment in tourist establishments employing 10 persons or more stood at 16,500 that is 7% higher than the figure of last year. Of this number, 68% or 11,200 were engaged in hotels. Table 11 shows the distribution of employment in tourism sector.

6. Forecast Year 1998

Considering the trend during the first nine months of the year, it is estimated that tourist arrivals for the year 1998 will be around 570,000, i.e. a growth rate of 6% over last year. Corresponding gross receipts from tourism is expected to be around 11,500 million rupees compared to 10,068 million rupees for last year.

Central Statistical Office

Ministry of Economic Development, Productivity and Regional Development

PORT LOUIS

November 1998

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 passenger is one who stops over in a 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 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

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. It also includes passengers as well as crews of *cruise ship*.

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 1996 - 1998

Month	1996		1997		1998	
	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures
January	55,795	65,494	64,620	75,159	67,517	80,079
February	41,864	44,443	47,967	50,715	52,753	52,817
March	54,436	50,214	61,043	62,247	63,130	67,896
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>152,095</u>	<u>160,151</u>	<u>173,630</u>	<u>188,121</u>	<u>183,400</u>	<u>200,792</u>
April	52,946	57,841	52,463	52,592	60,745	60,376
May	47,902	47,232	52,191	51,419	56,977	59,203
June	39,253	39,899	45,240	44,457	43,904	42,384
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>140,101</u>	<u>144,972</u>	<u>149,894</u>	<u>148,468</u>	<u>161,626</u>	<u>161,963</u>
1st Semester	292,196	305,123	323,524	336,589	345,026	362,755
July	48,602	39,817	55,178	48,877	56,918	47,300
August	65,588	71,365	72,013	75,022	73,980	80,635
September	48,790	49,907	52,814	54,316	52,789	53,822
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>162,980</u>	<u>161,089</u>	<u>180,005</u>	<u>178,215</u>	<u>183,687</u>	<u>181,757</u>
October	57,262	51,312	58,074	55,871		
November	58,536	59,987	69,700	69,597		
December	71,726	56,861	73,974	59,486		
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>187,524</u>	<u>168,160</u>	<u>201,748</u>	<u>184,954</u>		
2nd Semester	350,504	329,249	381,753	363,169		
Whole Year	642,700	634,372	705,277	699,758		

Table 2 : - Departure of Mauritian residents by country of disembarkation, 1997/98

Country of disembarkation	Jan. - Sep. 1997	Jan. - Sep. 1998	% Change
EUROPE	34,325	30,038	-12.5
Belgium	662	435	-34.3
France	16,146	14,390	-10.9
Germany	1,124	1,316	17.1
Italy	2,632	2,213	-15.9
Switzerland	1,417	1,495	5.5
United Kingdom	11,845	9,764	-17.6
Other European	499	425	-14.8
AFRICA	41,109	52,368	27.4
Kenya	1,073	3,450	221.5
Malagasy Republic	2,270	3,159	39.2
Reunion	27,648	33,956	22.8
Seychelles	1,021	2,864	180.5
S. Africa, Rep. of	8,114	8,194	1.0
Zimbabwe	875	694	-20.7
Other African	108	51	-52.8
ASIA	19,112	19,691	3.0
Hong Kong	2,268	1,440	-36.5
India	7,963	7,240	-9.1
Malaysia	486	1,514	211.5
Singapore	6,373	7,782	22.1
Saudi Arabia	1,700	1,656	-2.6
Other Asian	322	59	-81.7
OCEANIA	2,528	2,292	-9.3
Australia	2,527	2,292	-9.3
Other Oceanian	1	-	-100.0
AMERICA	259	95	-63.3
U.S.A	72	22	-69.4
Canada	183	73	-60.1
Other American	4	-	-
NOT STATED	95	-	-100.0
ALL COUNTRIES	97,428	104,484	7.2

Table 3:- Selected tourism statistics, 1994 - 1998

Year	Number as at end of period			Tourist arrivals (Number)	Tourist nights (000)	Tourist receipts ^{2/} (Rs million)	
	Hotels	Rooms	Bedplaces				
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	
1997	87	6,809	14,126	536,125	5,451	10,068	
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	1,370
	2nd Qr.	90	6,727	13,950	110,642	1,125	2,017
	<u>1st Semester</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>6,727</u>	<u>13,950</u>	<u>245,326</u>	<u>2,495</u>	<u>4,610</u>
	3rd Qr.	89	6,705	13,890	134,443	1,366	2,372
	4th Qr.	<u>87</u>	6,809	14,126	156,356	1,590	3,086
	<u>2nd Semester</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>6,809</u>	<u>14,126</u>	<u>290,799</u>	<u>2,956</u>	<u>5,458</u>
1998	1st Qr.	<u>87</u>	<u>6,979</u> ¹	<u>14,457</u> ¹	<u>145,207</u>	<u>1,480</u> *	<u>3,040</u> *
	2nd Qr.	<u>88</u>	<u>7,039</u> ¹	<u>14,569</u> ¹	<u>119,610</u>	<u>1,220</u> *	<u>2,528</u> *
	<u>1st Semester</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>7,039</u>	<u>14,569</u>	<u>264,817</u>	<u>2,700</u> *	<u>5,568</u> *
	3rd Qr.	<u>89</u>	<u>7,074</u>	<u>14,639</u>	<u>134,579</u>	<u>1,480</u> *	<u>2,714</u> *

^{2/} Source: Bank of Mauritius

* Provisional

¹ Revised

Table 4 :- Tourist arrivals by main purpose of visit, 1997/98

Purpose of visit	Jan - Sep 1997	Jan - Sep 1998	% Change
Holiday	348,826	365,137	4.7
Business	13,774	14,987	8.8
Transit	9,034	11,384	26.0
Conference	3,730	3,337	-10.5
Sports	1,027	726	-29.3
Other & Not Stated	3,378	3,825	13.2
Total	379,769	399,396	5.2

Table 5:- Tourist arrivals by month, 1996 - 1998

Month	Number		
	1996	1997	1998
January	42,743	50,507	54,839
February	30,870	37,254	41,928
March	41,736	46,923	48,440
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>115,349</u>	<u>134,684</u>	<u>145,207</u>
April	38,759	38,683	45,433
May	36,303	39,794	43,790
June	27,984	32,165	30,387
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>103,046</u>	<u>110,642</u>	<u>119,610</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	<i>218,395</i>	<i>245,326</i>	<i>264,817</i>
July	35,656	39,716	40,700
August	50,347	55,033	54,651
September	36,681	39,694	39,228
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>122,684</u>	<u>134,443</u>	<u>134,579</u>
October	45,930	45,302	
November	46,130	55,424	
December	53,728	55,630	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>145,788</u>	<u>156,356</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<i>268,472</i>	<i>290,799</i>	
Whole Year	486,867	536,125	

Chart 1 - Monthly Distribution of Tourist Arrivals, Jan - Sep 1997/98

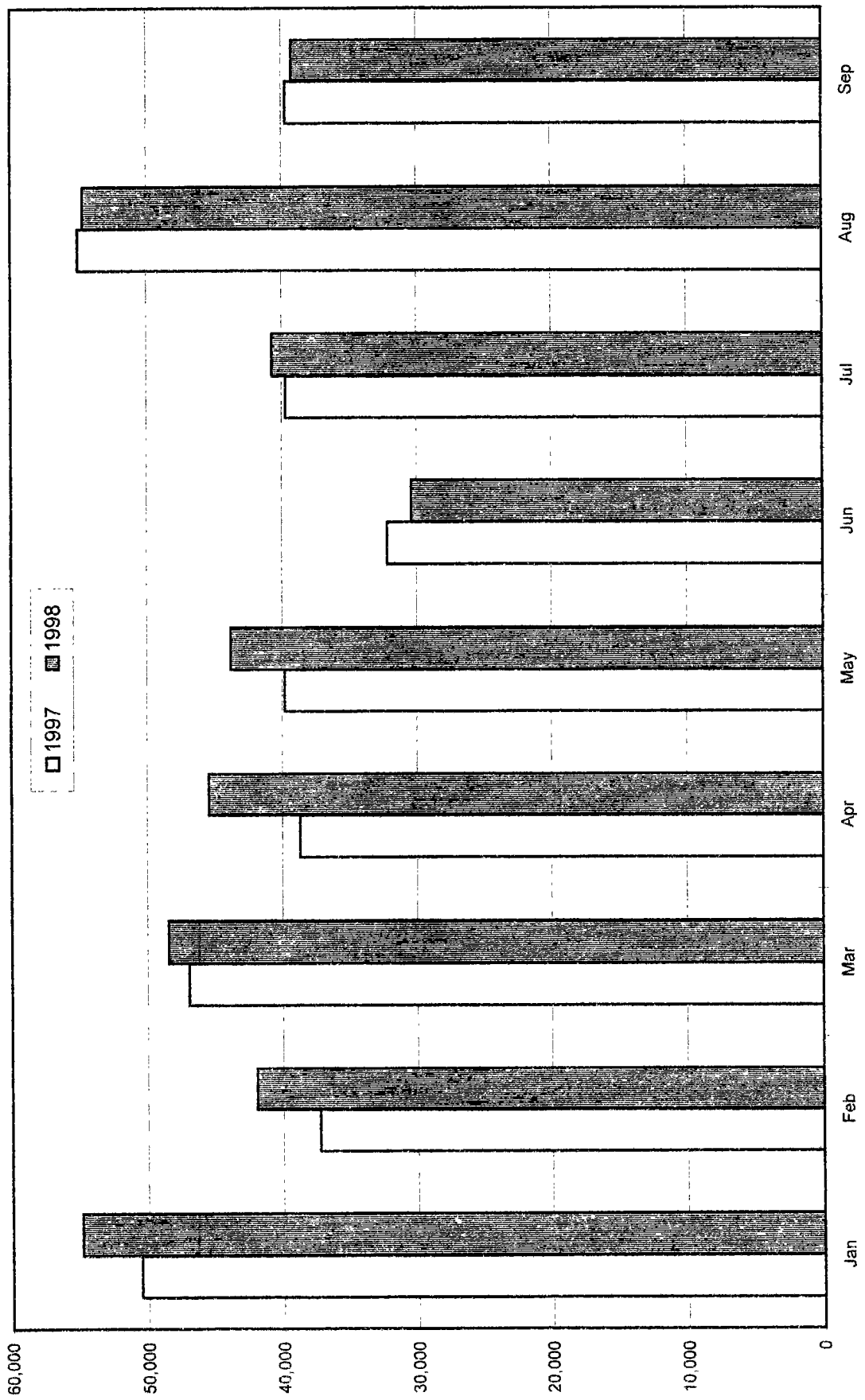


Table 6 : - Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, January - September 1997/1998

Country of residence	1998												% Change 1997/98
	1997												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jan - Sep			
EUROPE	224,028	31,976	33,294	29,668	23,970	17,528	24,602	26,843	25,160	245,309	9.5		
Austria	6,119	988	643	614	591	354	625	355	565	5,716	-6.6		
Belgium	5,733	670	569	875	474	624	640	456	739	5,696	-0.6		
France	96,162	14,809	16,357	14,209	11,201	6,604	10,942	12,612	8,791	110,868	15.3		
Germany	31,423	3,586	4,280	4,233	3,501	2,292	2,450	2,954	3,367	30,679	-2.4		
Italy	26,434	4,831	4,272	2,359	1,749	1,915	1,770	3,569	2,658	27,867	5.4		
Netherlands	1,997	192	339	244	187	189	345	180	297	2,156	8.0		
Spain	2,825	195	222	452	339	441	460	582	620	3,541	25.3		
Sweden	2,731	565	314	312	114	107	117	63	145	2,203	-19.3		
Switzerland	9,799	1,440	1,118	1,420	945	704	1,284	705	1,336	10,647	8.7		
United Kingdom	32,285	3,442	3,983	3,672	4,218	3,616	5,194	4,544	5,664	36,886	14.3		
CIS	1,499	159	231	167	172	120	101	128	147	1,592	6.2		
Other European	7,021	1,186	966	1,111	479	562	674	695	831	7,458	6.2		
AFRICA	121,543	7,161	11,923	12,637	15,740	8,102	12,212	24,305	10,481	121,986	0.4		
Comoros	664	55	54	79	76	69	60	68	69	599	-9.8		
Kenya	866	67	100	267	117	101	119	209	92	1,114	28.6		
Malagasy Rep.	7,501	643	813	828	763	599	783	906	860	6,765	-9.8		
Reunion	63,665	2,066	5,839	3,821	9,905	2,458	5,156	17,276	2,957	63,501	-0.3		
Seychelles	6,080	382	434	936	700	600	658	1,012	602	5,765	-5.2		
S/ Africa Rep. of	36,248	3,662	4,124	5,220	3,556	3,794	4,815	3,838	4,650	37,540	3.6		
Zimbabwe	3,025	146	258	715	303	198	205	385	334	2,738	-9.5		
Other African	3,494	140	301	771	320	283	416	611	917	3,964	13.5		

Table 6 : - Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, January - September 1997/1998 (Contd.)

Country of residence	1998												% Change 1997/98
	1998												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jan - Sep			
ASIA	22,919	1,943	1,961	1,896	2,859	2,754	2,532	2,376	2,329	20,800	-9.2		
Hong Kong	1,279	37	55	71	71	50	121	72	55	777	-39.2		
India	10,002	989	886	972	1,712	1,362	1,208	991	995	9,764	-2.4		
Japan	2,507	123	131	140	144	211	218	341	255	1,837	-26.7		
Malaysia	1,718	58	68	79	130	275	102	115	142	1,104	-35.7		
P. Rep. of China	1,529	155	247	130	218	225	170	157	323	1,762	15.2		
Singapore	2,430	329	260	193	240	294	329	266	183	2,587	6.5		
Other Asian	3,454	252	314	311	344	337	384	434	376	2,969	-14.0		
OCEANIA	7,388	479	784	773	841	1,398	789	717	886	7,178	-2.8		
Australia	7,086	458	765	713	782	1,356	737	684	846	6,825	-3.7		
Other Oceanian	302	21	19	60	59	42	52	33	40	353	16.9		
AMERICA	3,851	368	473	455	376	597	560	406	369	4,089	6.2		
USA	1,966	193	269	265	201	306	254	242	212	2,126	8.1		
Canada	1,244	93	111	115	85	163	211	120	81	1,080	-13.2		
Other American	641	82	93	75	90	128	95	44	76	883	37.8		
OTHER & NOT STATED	40	1	5	4	4	8	5	4	3	34	-15.0		

Chart 2 - Tourist Arrivals from Top Ten Markets, Jan - Sep 1997/98

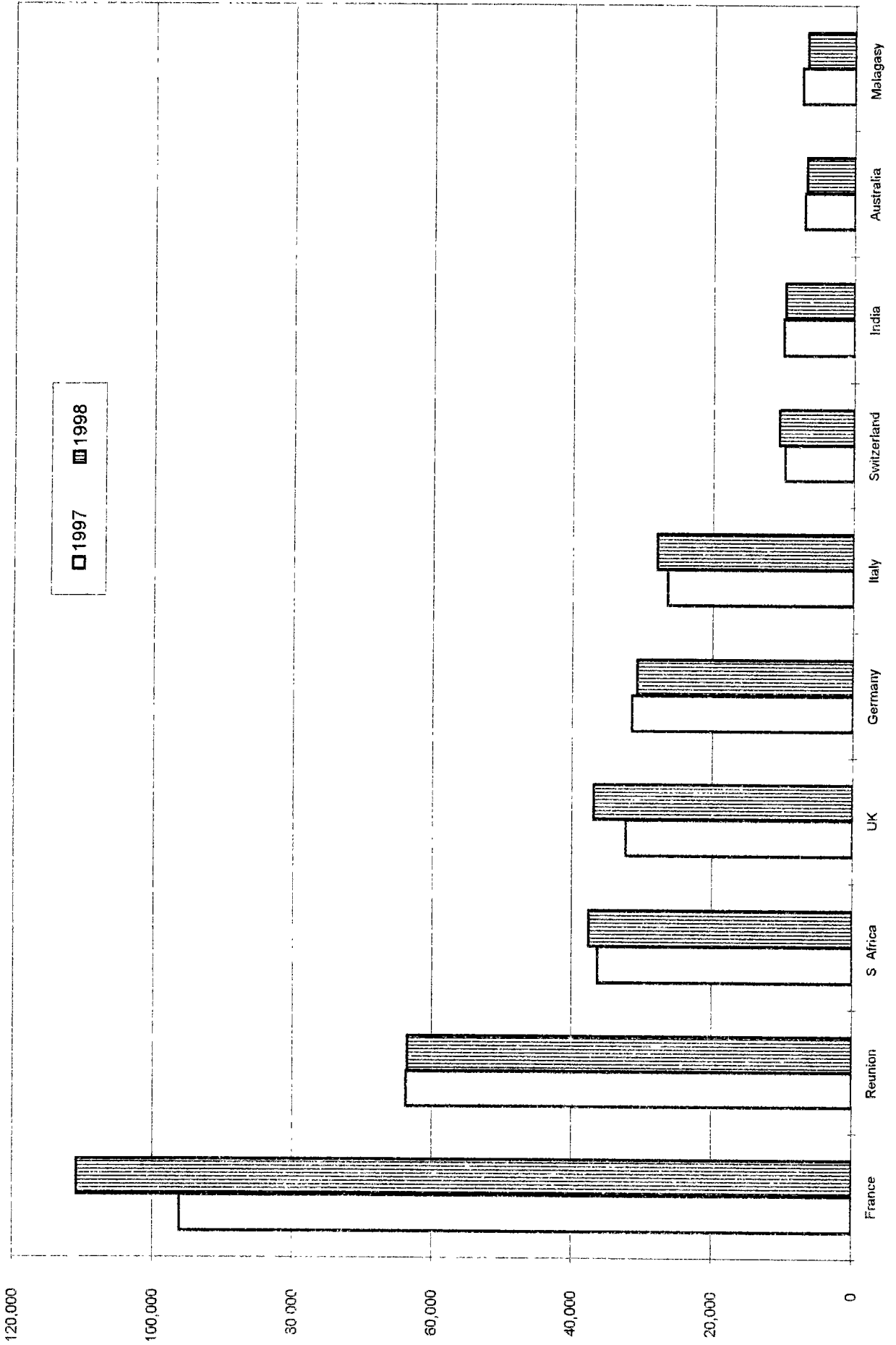


Table 7:- Monthly room occupancy rates for all registered hotels, 1996- 1998

Month	Occupancy rate (%)		
	1996	1997	1998*
January	72	76	84
February	67	68	79
March	69	64	73
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>79</u>
April	71	69	70
May	61	65	67
June	50	53	50
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>62</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>71</i>
July	55	63	59
August	69	76	74
September	70	78	75
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>70</u>
October	77	73	
November	83	83	
December	76	73	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>76</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>74</i>	
Whole Year	68	72	

* Provisional

Table 8:- Monthly bed occupancy rates for all registered hotels, 1996 - 1998

Month	Occupancy rate (%)		
	1996	1997	1998*
January	63	67	74
February	58	60	69
March	61	56	63
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>68</u>
April	62	60	61
May	54	56	59
June	43	46	44
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>55</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	57	58	62
July	48	56	51
August	60	67	65
September	60	68	65
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>61</u>
October	69	64	
November	73	73	
December	66	64	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>67</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	62	65	
Whole Year	60	64	

* Provisional

Table 9:-Monthly room occupancy rates for large hotels, 1996 - 1998

Month	Occupancy rate (%)		
	1996	1997	1998*
January	80	85	89
February	77	84	83
March	76	78	78
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>83</u>
April	76	76	75
May	65	72	71
June	53	58	55
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>67</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>76</i>	<i>75</i>
July	60	69	64
August	72	79	77
September	77	85	82
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>74</u>
October	83	81	
November	88	91	
December	79	78	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>84</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<i>76</i>	<i>80</i>	
Whole Year	74	78	

* Provisional

Table 10 :- Monthly bed occupancy rates for large hotels, 1996 - 1998

Month	Bed occupancy rate (%)		
	1996	1997	1998*
January	71	75	78
February	68	74	73
March	67	69	69
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>73</u>
April	67	67	66
May	57	63	63
June	47	52	48
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>59</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>66</i>
July	53	62	56
August	63	70	68
September	68	75	72
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>65</u>
October	76	72	
November	79	81	
December	70	69	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>74</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>72</i>	
Whole Year	65	70	

* Provisional

Table 11:- Employment in the tourist industry as at March, 1994 - 1998

Establishments \ Year	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Restaurants	1,157	1,000	1,154	1,118	1,389
Hotels	9,082	9,340	9,666	10,575	11,177
Travel and Tourism	3,419	3,515	3,596	3,732	3,924
Total	13,658	13,855	14,416	15,425	16,490

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