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- 1 ⇨ **INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURISM**
1st Quarter 1999
- 2 ⇨ **PRODUCER PRICE INDEX – MANUFACTURING (PPI-M)**
Food, Beverages & Tobacco
(October – December, 1998)

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MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTIVITY
AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PORT LOUIS

MAURITIUS

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURISM

1ST QUARTER 1999

1. Passenger Traffic

(i) *Total Passenger Traffic*

During the first quarter of 1999, a total of 200,500 arrivals were registered against 210,100 departures, i.e. an excess of 9,600 departures over arrivals. Compared to the same period of last year, these figures represent an increase of 9% in arrivals and 5% in departures. Further details on monthly trends are given in Table 1.

Total arrivals included 2,313 "excursionists", i.e. passengers arriving and leaving on the same day. Of these excursionists, 957 (41%) came from Reunion Island and 380 (16%) from France. Total arrivals also included 9,600 "cruise excursionists" (5,889 passengers and 3,711 crews) who visited our port aboard 12 cruise ships during the first quarter of 1999.

(ii) *Mauritian Residents*

The number of Mauritian residents travelling abroad during the first quarter of 1999 has known a growth of 19% to 36,000 compared to 30,200 for the same period of last year. The following trends were observed in the major destinations: Reunion Island (+8%), United Kingdom (+61%), France (+29%), India (+44%), Singapore (+47%) and Republic of South Africa (+3%). A more elaborate distribution of countries visited is presented in Table 2.

(iii) *Tourist Arrivals*

Tourist arrivals for the first quarter of 1999 numbered 152,200 showing an increase of 5% over the corresponding period of 1998. This was mainly due to growths from some major generating countries like France, United Kingdom, Reunion Island and Germany. Further details on tourist arrivals may be obtained from Tables 3 to 6.

Around 93% of the tourists came mainly for holidays while 3% were on business trips and another 2% were in transit.

Total arrivals from Europe, accounting for 68% of total tourist arrivals, numbered 103,100 during the first quarter of 1999, which is 6% higher than in the corresponding quarter of 1998, when it was 97,500. This was mainly due to growth from France (+6%) and United Kingdom (+22%) which have maintained their upward trends. Arrivals from Germany have known a recovery for the first quarter of 1999 with an increase of 8% to stand at 12,800, whereas arrivals from Italy dropped by 14% during the same period. Trends among the other European countries were as follows: Switzerland (-15%), Austria (-8%), Belgium (+11%), Sweden (+32%), Spain (+67%) and Netherlands (+39%).

Tourist arrivals from the African continent, with a share 26% of the total, have known a progression of 5% to reach 40,300 at the end of March 1999. Arrivals from our leading source country, Reunion Island, increased from 21,930 in 1998 to 25,090 in 1999, i.e. a growth of 14%, while arrivals from the Republic of South Africa decreased by 12% to 10,230 in 1999 compared to 11,670 in 1998. Changes from other African countries were as follows:- Malagasy Republic (-11%), Seychelles (+4%), Zimbabwe (-32%) and Kenya (+68%).

Arrivals from Asia have known an overall marginal decline of 0.4% for the reference period. Tourist arrivals from the main generating country, India have increased by 7% to reach 2,700 at the end of March 1999. Trends from other Asian markets were as follows:- Singapore (-29%), Japan (+39%), People's Republic of China (-16%), Malaysia (+17%) and Hong Kong (-26%).

Arrivals from Oceania have declined by 11% as a result of an 11% drop in tourists from Australia.

Compared to the first three months of last year, arrivals from the American market recorded a regression of 6%. This was the net effect of a 17% increase from USA and declines from Canada (-1%) and countries classified in Other American (-49%).

2. Tourist Nights

Total tourist nights spent in the country during the first quarter of 1999 is estimated at 1.55 million, representing an increase of 7% over the corresponding period of last year.

3. Hotel Statistics

At the end of March 1999, there were 90 registered hotels in operation, of which 29 were considered "Large", i.e. well-established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms. The total capacity for all registered hotels was 7,426 rooms with 15,289 bedplaces. For "Large" hotels the room capacity was 5,135 with 10,454 bedplaces.

The monthly room occupancy rates for the first quarter of 1999 averaged 75% for all hotels whereas bed occupancy rate was 65%. For "Large" hotels, the corresponding figure was 79% for room occupancy rate and 70% 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 quarter of 1999 is estimated at 3,543 million rupees, i.e. an increase of 17% compared to the same period of last year. Quarterly figures of tourism receipts are given in Table 3.

6. Forecast Year 1999

Based on latest data available to date, total tourist arrivals is expected to be around 580,000 with gross receipts of the order of 13,000 million rupees for the year 1999.

Central Statistical Office

Ministry of Economic Development, Productivity and Regional Development

Port Louis

May 1999

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 1997 - 1999

Month	1997		1998		1999	
	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures
January	64,620	75,159	67,517	80,079	77,871	88,105
February	47,967	50,715	52,753	52,817	57,371	59,233
March	61,043	62,247	63,130	67,896	65,278	62,785
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>173,630</u>	<u>188,121</u>	<u>183,400</u>	<u>200,792</u>	<u>200,520</u>	<u>210,123</u>
April	52,463	52,592	60,745	60,376		
May	52,191	51,419	56,977	59,203		
June	45,240	44,457	43,904	42,384		
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>149,894</u>	<u>148,468</u>	<u>161,626</u>	<u>161,963</u>		
<i>1st Semester</i>	<i>323,524</i>	<i>336,589</i>	<i>345,026</i>	<i>362,755</i>		
July	55,178	48,877	56,918	47,300		
August	72,013	75,022	73,980	80,635		
September	52,814	54,316	52,789	53,822		
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>180,005</u>	<u>178,215</u>	<u>183,687</u>	<u>181,757</u>		
October	58,074	55,871	62,674	57,243		
November	69,700	69,597	68,394	69,975		
December	73,974	59,486	78,240	63,620		
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>201,748</u>	<u>184,954</u>	<u>209,308</u>	<u>190,838</u>		
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<i>381,753</i>	<i>363,169</i>	<i>392,995</i>	<i>372,595</i>		
Whole Year	705,277	699,758	738,021	735,350		

**Table 2 : - Departure of Mauritian residents by country of disembarkation,
1st Quarter 1998/99**

Country of disembarkation	1st Quarter 1998	1st Quarter 1999	% Change
EUROPE	7,182	9,539	32.8
Belgium	66	63	-4.5
France	3,110	4,003	28.7
Germany	354	265	-25.1
Italy	678	738	8.8
Switzerland	434	364	-16.1
United Kingdom	2,490	4,008	61.0
Other European	50	98	96.0
AFRICA	14,627	15,550	6.3
Kenya	996	401	-59.7
Malagasy Republic	950	1,312	38.1
Reunion	8,929	9,616	7.7
Seychelles	577	800	38.6
S. Africa, Rep. of	3,033	3,122	2.9
Zimbabwe	124	200	61.3
Other African	18	99	450.0
ASIA	7,363	9,717	32.0
Hong Kong	418	459	9.8
India	2,644	3,804	43.9
Malaysia	523	286	-45.3
Singapore	2,138	3,135	46.6
Saudi Arabia	1,627	2,023	24.3
Other Asian	13	10	-23.1
OCEANIA	1,010	1,114	10.3
Australia	1,010	1,114	10.3
Other Oceanian	-	-	-
AMERICA	19	50	163.2
U.S.A	6	11	83.3
Canada	13	37	184.6
Other American	-	2	-
NOT STATED	-	-	-
All Countries	30,201	35,970	19.1

Table 3:- Selected tourism statistics, 1995 - 1999

Year	Number as at end of period			Tourist arrivals (Number)	Tourist nights (000)	Tourist receipts ¹ (Rs million)	
	Hotels	Rooms	Bedplaces				
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	
1998	90	7,267	14,995	558,195	5,568 *	11,890 *	
1997	1st Qr.	90	6,661	13,818	134,684	1,370	2,593
	2nd Qr.	90	6,727	13,950	110,642	1,125	2,017
	1st Semester	90	6,727	13,950	245,326	2,495	4,610
	3rd Qr.	89	6,705	13,890	134,443	1,366	2,372
	4th Qr.	87	6,809	14,126	156,356	1,590	3,086
	2nd Semester	87	6,809	14,126	290,799	2,956	5,458
1998	1st Qr.	87	6,979	14,457	145,207	1,450 **	3,040 *
	2nd Qr.	88	7,039	14,569	119,610	1,192 **	2,528 *
	1st Semester	88	7,039	14,569	264,817	2,642 **	5,568 *
	3rd Qr.	89	7,074	14,639	134,579	1,340 **	2,714 *
	4th Qr.	90	7,267	14,995	158,799	1,586 **	3,608 *
	2nd Semester	90	7,267	14,995	293,378	2,926 **	6,322 *
1999	1st Qr.	90	7,426	15,289	152,246	1,550 *	3,543 *

* Provisional

** Revised

¹ Source: Bank of MauritiusTable 4 :- Tourist arrivals by main purpose of visit,
1st Quarter 1998/99

Purpose of visit	1st Quarter 1998	1st Quarter 1999	% Change
Holiday	134,452	141,307	5.1
Business	4,756	5,311	11.7
Transit	3,931	3,544	-9.8
Conference	827	671	-18.9
Sports	104	304	192.3
Other & Not Stated	1,137	1,109	-2.5
Total	145,207	152,246	4.8

Table 5:- Tourist arrivals by month, 1997 - 1999

Month	Number		
	1997	1998	1999
January	50,507	54,839	59,680
February	37,254	41,928	41,859
March	46,923	48,440	50,707
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>134,684</u>	<u>145,207</u>	<u>152,246</u>
April	38,683	45,433	
May	39,794	43,790	
June	32,165	30,387	
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>110,642</u>	<u>119,610</u>	
<i>1st Semester</i>	<i>245,326</i>	<i>264,817</i>	
July	39,716	40,700	
August	55,033	54,651	
September	39,694	39,228	
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>134,443</u>	<u>134,579</u>	
October	45,302	49,090	
November	55,424	52,563	
December	55,630	57,146	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>156,356</u>	<u>158,799</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<i>290,799</i>	<i>293,378</i>	
Whole Year	536,125	558,195	

Table 6 : - Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, 1st Quarter 1998/99

Country of residence	1998 1st Quarter	1999			1st Quarter	% Change 1998/99
		Jan	Feb	Mar		
EUROPE	97,538	36,079	32,131	34,854	103,064	5.7
Austria	2,612	832	898	675	2,405	-7.9
Belgium	1,888	653	718	724	2,095	11.0
France	46,509	18,254	14,885	16,313	49,452	6.3
Germany	11,882	4,604	3,535	4,703	12,842	8.1
Italy	13,847	4,410	4,023	3,541	11,974	-13.5
Netherlands	714	327	398	267	992	38.9
Spain	647	251	292	536	1,079	66.8
Sweden	1,345	532	732	512	1,776	32.0
Switzerland	4,253	1,491	1,145	991	3,627	-14.7
United Kingdom	9,978	3,145	3,956	5,112	12,213	22.4
CIS	757	332	174	96	602	-20.5
Other European	3,106	1,248	1,375	1,384	4,007	29.0
AFRICA	38,509	20,972	6,640	12,695	40,307	4.7
Comoros	178	51	49	74	174	-2.2
Kenya	209	88	70	192	350	67.5
Malagasy Rep.	2,026	534	589	677	1,800	-11.2
Reunion	21,928	16,190	2,447	6,451	25,088	14.4
Seychelles	1,257	532	340	431	1,303	3.7
S/ Africa Rep. of	11,667	3,116	2,794	4,319	10,229	-12.3
Zimbabwe	598	134	94	181	409	-31.6
Other African	646	327	257	370	954	47.7
ASIA	6,054	1,534	2,366	2,132	6,032	-0.4
Hong Kong	337	36	157	57	250	-25.8
India	2,524	654	1,037	1,003	2,694	6.7
Japan	528	177	362	194	733	38.8
Malaysia	261	77	109	119	305	16.9
P. Rep. of China	539	108	107	238	453	-16.0
Singapore	1,082	232	286	250	768	-29.0
Other Asian	783	250	308	271	829	5.9
OCEANIA	1,774	641	334	606	1,581	-10.9
Australia	1,707	622	313	581	1,516	-11.2
Other Oceanian	67	19	21	25	65	-3.0
AMERICA	1,326	447	382	417	1,246	-6.0
USA	646	242	235	278	755	16.9
Canada	305	104	94	103	301	-1.3
Other American	375	101	53	36	190	-49.3
OTHER & N.STATED	6	7	6	3	16	166.7
All Countries	145,207	59,680	41,859	50,707	152,246	4.8

Chart 1 - Tourist Arrivals from Top Ten Markets, 1st Quarter 1998/99

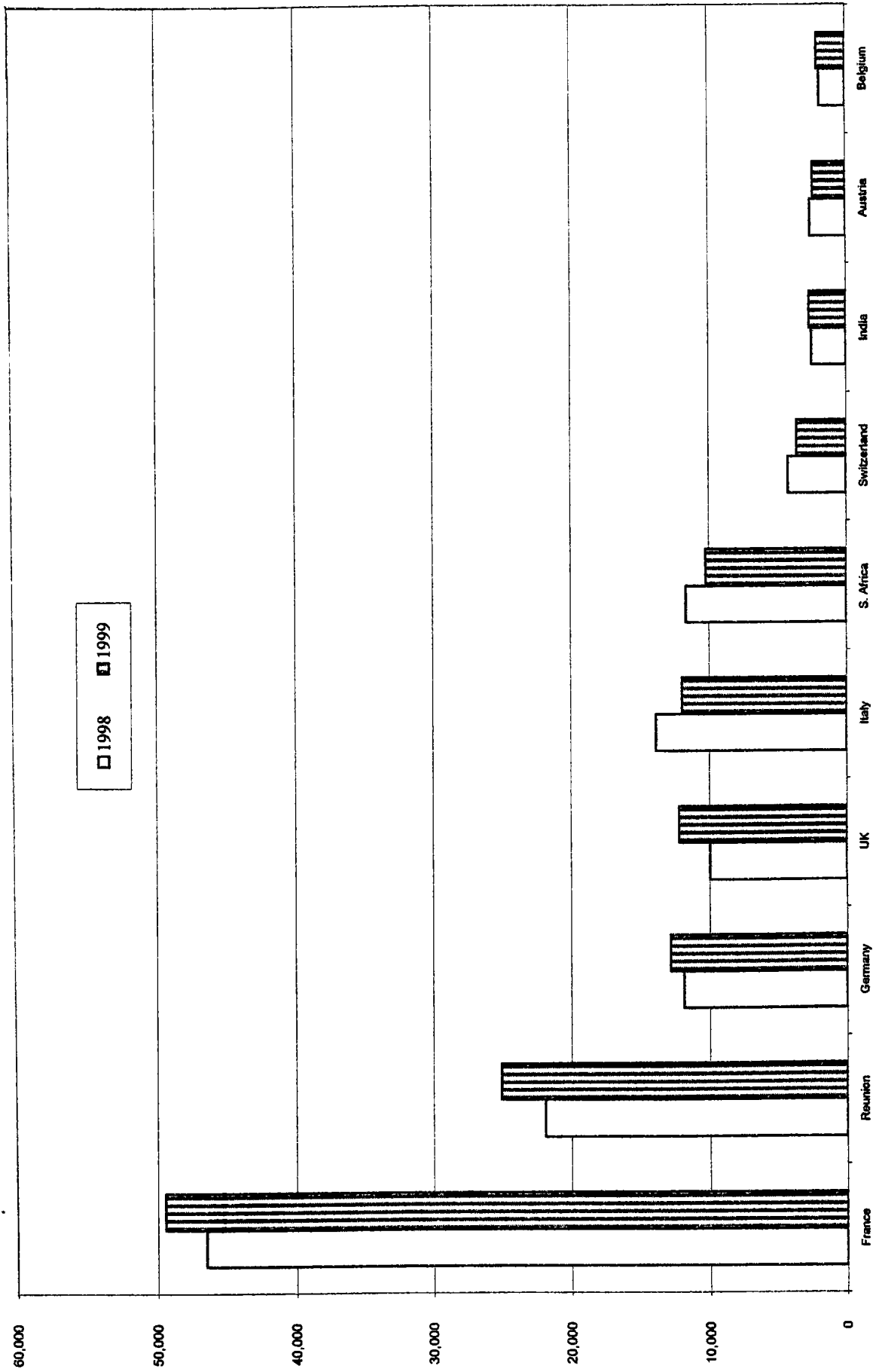


Table 7:- Monthly room occupancy rates for all registered hotels, 1997- 1999

Month	Occupancy rate (%)		
	1997	1998	1999*
January	76	84	79
February	68	79	73
March	64	73	71
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>75</u>
April	69	70	
May	65	67	
June	53	50	
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>62</u>	
<i>1st Semester</i>	66	71	
July	63	59	
August	76	74	
September	78	75	
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>70</u>	
October	73	78	
November	83	84	
December	73	71	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>78</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	74	73	
Whole Year	72	72	

* Provisional

Table 8:- Monthly bed occupancy rates for all registered hotels, 1997 - 1999

Month	Occupancy rate (%)		
	1997	1998	1999*
January	67	74	69
February	60	69	64
March	56	63	62
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>65</u>
April	60	61	
May	56	59	
June	46	44	
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>55</u>	
<i>1st Semester</i>	58	62	
July	56	51	
August	67	65	
September	68	65	
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>61</u>	
October	64	69	
November	73	73	
December	64	62	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>68</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	65	64	
Whole Year	64	63	

* Provisional

Table 9:-Monthly room occupancy rates for large hotels, 1997 - 1999

Month	Occupancy rate (%)		
	1997	1998	1999*
January	85	89	83
February	84	83	77
March	78	78	76
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>79</u>
April	76	75	
May	72	71	
June	58	55	
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>67</u>	
<i>1st Semester</i>	76	75	
July	69	64	
August	79	77	
September	85	82	
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>74</u>	
October	81	83	
November	91	87	
December	78	74	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>82</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	80	78	
Whole Year	78	77	

* Provisional

Table 10 :- Monthly bed occupancy rates for large hotels, 1997 - 1999

Month	Bed occupancy rate (%)		
	1997	1998	1999*
January	75	78	74
February	74	73	68
March	69	69	67
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>70</u>
April	67	66	
May	63	63	
June	52	48	
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>59</u>	
<i>1st Semester</i>	67	66	
July	62	56	
August	70	68	
September	75	72	
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>65</u>	
October	72	74	
November	81	77	
December	69	65	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>72</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	72	69	
Whole Year	70	68	

* Provisional