

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURISM

January to September 1999

1. Passenger Traffic

(i) *Total Passenger Traffic*

Passenger traffic during the period January to September 1999 totalled 1,122,800, made up of 558,700 arrivals and 564,100 departures. Compared to the same period of 1998, these figures represent increases of 6% in arrivals and 4% in departures. Table 1 shows monthly details of passenger traffic.

Total arrivals included 7,170 "excursionists", i.e. passengers arriving and leaving on the same day. Of these excursionists, 2,880 (40%) came from Reunion Island and 1,130 (16%) from France. Total arrivals also included 10,140 "cruise excursionists" (6,150 passengers and 3,990 crews) aboard 13 cruise ships which visited our port during the first nine months of 1999.

(ii) *Departures of Mauritian Residents*

During the period under review, the number of Mauritian residents travelling abroad increased by 9.5% from 104,500 in 1998 to 114,400 in 1999, and accounted for 20% of total departures. Increases were observed in departures to the following destinations: Belgium (+56%), France (+27%), United Kingdom (+44%), Malagasy Republic (+23%), Hong Kong (+13%), India (+22%), Malaysia (+11%), Singapore (+30%), Saudi Arabia (+23%) and Australia (+9%). On the other hand, there were declines in the case of Germany (-4%), Kenya (-62%) and Reunion Island (-7%). Table 2 gives a more complete picture of departures during the period.

(iii) *Tourist Arrivals*

Tourist arrivals for the first nine months of 1999, increased by 4% to reach 413,500 compared to 399,400 for the corresponding period in 1998. This was mainly due to increases in arrivals from some major generating countries like France, United Kingdom, Germany and Reunion Island.

Around 91% of the tourists came mainly for holidays while 4% were on business trips and another 2% were in transit (Table 4).

Table 5 shows that arrivals from Europe have known a growth of 8% for the period under review, accounting for 64% of total tourist arrivals. France, our leading European market, maintained its upward trend with an increase of 8% to reach 120,000 at the end of September 1999. The other major generating countries that have known growth in arrivals were: Germany (+4%), Italy (+1%) and United Kingdom (+15%). Trends among the other European countries were as follows: Austria (+4%), Belgium (+17%), Netherlands (+41%), Spain (+29%), Sweden (+27%), Switzerland (-8%) and CIS (-32%).

Tourist arrivals from the African continent, for the first nine months of 1999, showed a decline of 4% compared to the corresponding period of 1998, accounting for 28% of total tourist arrivals. From Reunion Island, the major generating country of the region, there was a 2% increase while a drop of 8% was observed from Republic of South Africa. Other changes in arrivals from African countries were as follows: Kenya (+12%), Malagasy Republic (-16%), Seychelles (-12%) and Zimbabwe (-38%).

Regarding the Asian continent, which accounts for 5% of total tourist arrivals, a 2% growth was observed. Arrivals from India, the largest market of the continent, have increased by 7%. Among other Asian countries the following changes were observed: Hong Kong (-19%), Japan (-4%), Malaysia (+10%), People's Republic of China (-15%) and Singapore (+3%).

Arrivals from Oceania have dropped by 15%, mostly attributable to Australia.

Arrivals from the continent of America declined by 2%. This is however the net result of growths of 10% from USA and 3% from Canada coupled with a drop of 36% from other American countries.

2. Tourist Nights

Total tourist nights spent in the country during the first nine months of 1999 is estimated at 4.2 million, representing an increase of 5% over the corresponding period of last year (Table 6).

3. Hotel Statistics

The opening of two new hotels during the third quarter of 1999 brought the number of registered hotels to 91 at the end of September. The total room capacity for these registered hotels was 7,903 with 16,243 bedplaces (Table 7). The room occupancy rate for the period January to September 1999 averaged 70% while the bed occupancy rate was 61% (Table 8).

As regards "Large" hotels, i.e. well-established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms numbered 31 or 34% of all registered hotels. These "Large" hotels had a room capacity of 5,658 with 11,500 bedplaces, representing 72% of total room capacity and 71% of total bedplaces. Their room occupancy rate for the period January to September 1999 was of the order of 75% while bed occupancy rate averaged 66% (Table 8).

4. Gross Tourism Receipts

Gross receipts from tourism for the first nine months of 1999 amounted to 9,741 million rupees, i.e. an increase of 18% compared to 8,282 million rupees for the same period of last year. Quarterly figures of tourism receipts are given in Table 6.

5. Employment

According to the Survey of Employment and Earnings, direct employment in travel and tourism establishments employing 10 persons or more stood at 17,111 at the end of March 1999, that is 4% higher than last year. Of this number, 11,715 or 68% were engaged in hotels (Table 9).

6. Forecast Year 1999

Based on the trends during the first nine months of the year and patterns of previous years, it is estimated that tourist arrivals for the year 1999 will be around 580,000, i.e. an increase of 4% over last year. Corresponding gross receipts from tourism are expected to be around 13,500 million rupees compared to 11,890 million rupees for 1998.

Central Statistical Office

Ministry of Economic Development, Productivity and Regional Development

Port Louis

November 1999

Explanatory Notes

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. 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
1st Quarter	173,630	188,121	183,400	200,792	200,520	210,123
April	52,463	52,592	60,745	60,376	58,456	63,172
May	52,191	51,419	56,977	59,203	54,703	52,609
June	45,240	44,457	43,904	42,384	51,604	51,034
2nd Quarter	149,894	148,468	161,626	161,963	164,763	166,815
1st Semester	323,524	336,589	345,026	362,755	365,283	376,938
July	55,178	48,877	56,918	47,300	61,520	53,840
August	72,013	75,022	73,980	80,635	76,587	80,516
September	52,814	54,316	52,789	53,822	55,333	52,774
3rd Quarter	180,005	178,215	183,687	181,757	193,440	187,130
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		
4th Quarter	201,748	184,954	209,308	190,838		
2nd Semester	381,753	363,169	392,995	372,595		
Whole Year	705,277	699,758	738,021	735,350		

**Table 2 : - Departure of Mauritian residents by country of disembarkation,
January - September of 1998 and 1999**

Country of disembarkation	Jan - Sep 1998	Jan - Sep 1999	% Change
EUROPE	30,038	38,239	27.3
Belgium	435	678	55.9
France	14,390	18,278	27.0
Germany	1,316	1,268	-3.6
Italy	2,213	2,259	2.1
Switzerland	1,495	1,476	-1.3
United Kingdom	9,764	14,041	43.8
Other European	425	239	-43.8
AFRICA	52,368	49,120	-6.2
Kenya	3,450	1,303	-62.2
Malagasy Republic	3,159	3,892	23.2
Reunion	33,956	31,601	-6.9
Seychelles	2,864	2,693	-6.0
S. Africa, Rep. of	8,194	8,349	1.9
Zimbabwe	694	905	30.4
Other African	51	377	639.2
ASIA	19,691	24,398	23.9
Hong Kong	1,440	1,632	13.3
India	7,240	8,811	21.7
Malaysia	1,514	1,687	11.4
Singapore	7,782	10,075	29.5
Saudi Arabia	1,656	2,028	22.5
Other Asian	59	165	179.7
OCEANIA	2,292	2,492	8.7
Australia	2,292	2,490	8.6
Other Oceanian	-	2	-
AMERICA	95	111	16.8
U.S.A	22	22	0.0
Canada	73	88	20.5
Other American	-	1	-
NOT STATED	-	2	-
All Countries	104,484	114,362	9.5

Table 3:- 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
<i>1st Quarter</i>	<u>134,684</u>	<u>145,207</u>	<u>152,246</u>
April	38,683	45,433	41,536
May	39,794	43,790	42,254
June	32,165	30,387	35,910
<i>2nd Quarter</i>	<u>110,642</u>	<u>119,610</u>	<u>119,700</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	<u>245,326</u>	<u>264,817</u>	<u>271,946</u>
July	39,716	40,700	42,862
August	55,033	54,651	57,321
September	39,694	39,228	41,383
<i>3rd Quarter</i>	<u>134,443</u>	<u>134,579</u>	<u>141,566</u>
October	45,302	49,090	
November	55,424	52,563	
December	55,630	57,146	
<i>4th Quarter</i>	<u>156,356</u>	<u>158,799</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<u>290,799</u>	<u>293,378</u>	
Whole Year	536,125	558,195	

**Table 4 :- Tourist arrivals by main purpose of visit,
January - September of 1998 and 1999**

Purpose of visit	Jan - Sep 1998	Jan - Sep 1999	% Change
Holiday	365,137	378,199	3.6
Business	14,987	17,362	15.8
Transit	11,384	9,873	-13.3
Conference	3,337	2,655	-20.4
Sports	726	842	16.0
Other & Not Stated	3,825	4,581	19.8
Total	399,396	413,512	3.5

Table 5 : - Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, January - September of 1998 and 1999

Country of residence	1998		1999												% Change 1998/99
	Jan - Sep	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jan - Sep				
EUROPE	245,309	36,079	32,131	34,854	28,247	26,782	21,391	27,919	29,542	28,023	264,968	8.0			
Austria	5,716	832	898	675	697	561	389	763	582	526	5,923	3.6			
Belgium	5,696	653	718	724	867	651	691	874	600	870	6,648	16.7			
France	110,868	18,254	14,885	16,313	13,821	12,232	8,543	12,180	13,528	10,287	120,043	8.3			
Germany	30,679	4,604	3,535	4,703	3,265	3,565	2,564	2,825	3,076	3,672	31,809	3.7			
Italy	27,867	4,410	4,023	3,541	2,197	2,270	2,297	2,186	4,394	2,753	28,071	0.7			
Netherlands	2,156	327	398	267	322	343	229	485	212	449	3,032	40.6			
Spain	3,541	251	292	536	321	408	523	561	828	830	4,550	28.5			
Sweden	2,203	532	732	512	272	144	205	171	75	163	2,806	27.4			
Switzerland	10,647	1,491	1,145	991	1,275	1,155	761	1,149	530	1,259	9,756	-8.4			
United Kingdom	36,886	3,145	3,956	5,112	4,182	4,674	4,352	5,677	4,972	6,327	42,397	14.9			
CIS	1,592	332	174	96	156	55	58	103	72	40	1,086	-31.8			
Other European	7,458	1,248	1,375	1,384	872	724	779	945	673	847	8,847	18.6			
AFRICA	121,986	20,972	6,640	12,695	10,227	11,472	10,318	11,231	23,963	9,642	117,160	-4.0			
Comoros	599	51	49	74	61	58	69	60	37	63	522	-12.9			
Kenya	1,114	88	70	192	158	125	151	140	223	101	1,248	12.0			
Malagasy Rep.	6,765	534	589	677	722	646	610	632	785	479	5,674	-16.1			
Reunion	63,501	16,190	2,447	6,451	3,491	6,399	4,245	4,774	17,455	3,216	64,668	1.8			
Seychelles	5,765	532	340	431	651	562	552	483	961	566	5,078	-11.9			
S/ Africa Rep. of	37,540	3,116	2,794	4,319	3,982	3,116	4,045	4,527	3,708	4,836	34,443	-8.2			
Zimbabwe	2,738	134	94	181	375	137	144	133	360	131	1,689	-38.3			
Other African	3,964	327	257	370	787	429	502	482	434	250	3,838	-3.2			

Table 5 (contd.) : - Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, January - September of 1998 and 1999

Country of residence	1998		1999												% Change 1998/99
	Jan - Sep	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jan - Sep				
	ASIA	20,800	1,534	2,366	2,132	2,119	2,814	3,004	2,359	2,551	2,330	21,209	2.0		
Hong Kong	777	36	157	57	63	67	52	74	78	46	630	-18.9			
India	9,764	654	1,037	1,003	998	1,496	1,615	1,108	1,433	1,065	10,409	6.6			
Japan	1,837	177	362	194	130	117	203	164	223	191	1,761	-4.1			
Malaysia	1,104	77	109	119	155	173	224	159	99	94	1,209	9.5			
P. Rep. of China	1,762	108	107	238	148	248	198	132	109	209	1,497	-15.0			
Singapore	2,587	232	286	250	335	342	345	296	324	255	2,665	3.0			
Other Asian	2,969	250	308	271	290	371	367	426	285	470	3,038	2.3			
OCEANIA	7,178	641	334	606	521	825	694	604	784	1,088	6,097	-15.1			
Australia	6,825	622	313	581	508	801	655	582	753	999	5,814	-14.8			
Other Oceanian	353	19	21	25	13	24	39	22	31	89	283	-19.8			
AMERICA	4,089	447	382	417	416	361	498	738	470	292	4,021	-1.7			
USA	2,126	242	235	278	245	222	292	373	274	175	2,336	9.9			
Canada	1,080	104	94	103	114	102	138	263	134	65	1,117	3.4			
Other American	883	101	53	36	57	37	68	102	62	52	568	-35.7			
OTHER & N.STATED	34	7	6	3	6	-	5	11	11	8	57	67.6			
All Countries	399,396	59,680	41,859	50,707	41,536	42,254	35,910	42,862	57,321	41,383	413,512	3.5			

Chart 1 - Monthly Distribution of Tourist Arrivals, January - September of 1998 and 1999

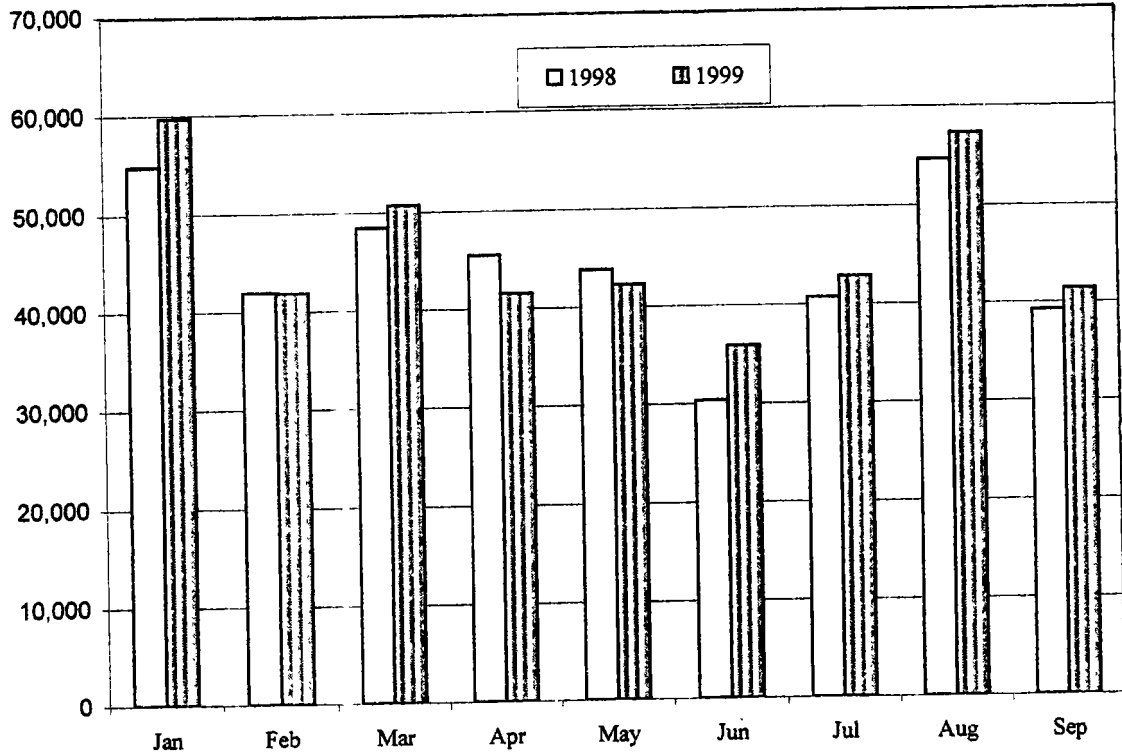


Chart 2 - Tourist Arrivals from Top Ten Markets, January - September of 1998 and 1999

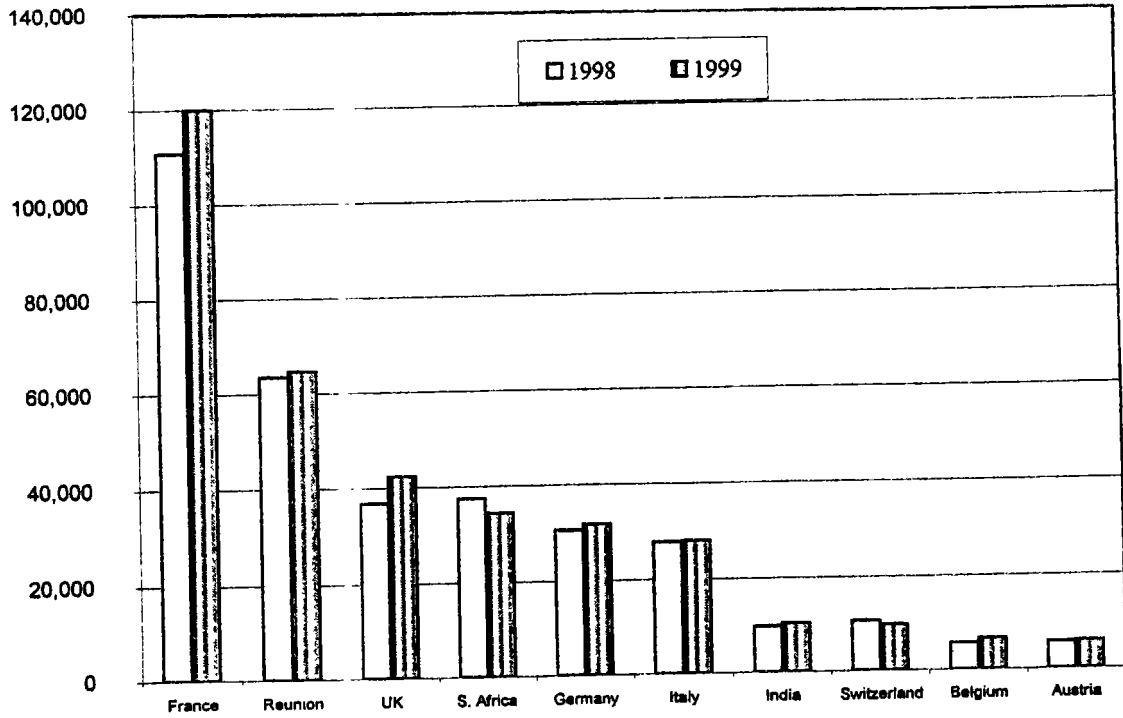


Table 6 :- Selected Tourism Statistics, 1995 - 1999

Year		Tourist arrivals (Number)	Tourist nights (000)	Tourism receipts ¹ (Rs million)
	1995	422,463	4,435	7,472
	1996	486,867	4,958	9,048
	1997	536,125	5,451	10,068
	1998	558,195	5,568	11,890
1997	1st Qr.	134,684	1,370	2,593
	2nd Qr.	110,642	1,125	2,017
	1st Semester	245,326	2,495	4,610
	3rd Qr.	134,443	1,366	2,372
	4th Qr.	156,356	1,590	3,086
	2nd Semester	290,799	2,956	5,458
1998	1st Qr.	145,207	1,450	3,040
	2nd Qr.	119,610	1,192	2,528
	1st Semester	264,817	2,642	5,568
	3rd Qr.	134,579	1,340	2,714
	4th Qr.	158,799	1,586	3,608
	2nd Semester	293,378	2,926	6,322
1999	1st Qr.	152,246	1,550 *	3,543 *
	2nd Qr.	119,700	1,220 *	2,898 *
	1st Semester	271,946	2,770 *	6,441 *
	3rd Qr.	141,566	1,410 *	3,300 *

* Provisional

¹ Source: Bank of Mauritius

Table 7:- Hotels, rooms and bedplaces, 1995 - 1999

Year	Number as at end of period			
	Hotels	Rooms	Bedplaces	
1995	95	5,977	12,359	
1996	90	6,668	13,833	
1997	87	6,809	14,126	
1998	90	7,267	14,995	
1997	1st Qr.	90	6,661	13,818
	2nd Qr.	90	6,727	13,950
	3rd Qr.	89	6,705	13,890
	4th Qr.	87	6,809	14,126
1998	1st Qr.	87	6,979	14,457
	2nd Qr.	88	7,039	14,569
	3rd Qr.	89	7,074	14,639
	4th Qr.	90	7,267	14,995
1999	1st Qr.	90	7,426	15,289
	2nd Qr.	89	7,365	15,167
	3rd Qr.	91	7,903	16,243

Table 8 :- Monthly Occupancy Rates (%) for All and "Large" Hotels, 1997- 1999

Month	All Hotels						Large Hotels ¹					
	Room Occupancy (%)			Bed Occupancy (%)			Room Occupancy (%)			Bed Occupancy (%)		
	1997	1998	1999*	1997	1998	1999*	1997	1998	1999*	1997	1998	1999*
January	76	84	79	67	74	69	85	89	83	75	78	74
February	68	79	73	60	69	64	84	83	77	74	73	68
March	64	73	71	56	63	62	78	78	76	69	69	67
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>70</u>
April	69	70	68	60	61	59	76	75	74	67	66	65
May	65	67	67	56	59	59	72	71	73	63	63	64
June	53	50	60	46	44	52	58	55	64	52	48	56
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>62</u>
<u>1st Semester</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>66</u>
July	63	59	65	56	51	57	69	64	70	62	56	62
August	76	74	73	67	65	63	79	77	74	70	68	66
September	78	75	73	68	65	64	85	82	77	75	72	68
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>65</u>
October	73	78	78	64	69	69	81	83	74	72	74	74
November	83	84	73	73	73	73	91	87	77	81	77	77
December	73	71	64	64	62	62	78	74	74	69	65	65
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>72</u>
<u>2nd Semester</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>69</u>
Whole Year	72	72		64	63		78	77		70	68	

* Provisional

¹ Note : Large hotels are well established beach hotels of over 80 rooms

Table 9 :- Employment in the tourist industry as at end of March, 1995 - 1999

Year	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Establishments					
Restaurants	1,000	1,154	1,118	1,389	1,288
Hotels	9,340	9,666	10,575	11,177	11,715
Travel and Tourism	3,515	3,596	3,732	3,924	4,108
Total	13,855	14,416	15,425	16,490	17,111

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