

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURISM

Year 1999

1. Passenger Traffic

(i) *Total Passenger Traffic*

Passenger traffic for the year 1999 totalled 1,542,000, made up of 777,900 arrivals and 764,100 departures. Compared to 1998, these figures represent increases of 5% in arrivals and 4% in departures. Table 1 shows monthly details of passenger traffic.

Total arrivals included 10,700 "excursionists", i.e. passengers arriving and leaving on the same day, of which 4,400 (41%) came from Reunion Island and 1,730 (16%) from France. Total arrivals also included 10,910 "cruise excursionists" (6,630 passengers and 4,280 crews) aboard 14 cruise ships which visited our port in 1999.

(ii) *Departures of Mauritian Residents*

The number of Mauritian residents travelling abroad increased by 8% from 142,700 in 1998 to 154,100 in 1999, and accounted for 20% of total departures. The following trends were observed in the major destinations: Reunion Island (-7%), France (+26%), United Kingdom (+45%), Singapore (+16%) and India (+5%). A more detailed distribution by country visited is presented in Table 2.

(iii) *Tourist Arrivals*

Tourist arrivals increased by 4% to reach 578,100 in 1999, compared to 558,200 in 1998. This was mainly due to increases in arrivals from the major generating countries like France and United Kingdom as well as from the emerging markets like Netherlands and Spain.

In 1999, around 92% of the tourists came mainly for holidays while 5% were on business/conference trips and another 2% were in transit (Table 4).

Table 5 shows that tourist arrivals from Europe have known a growth of 7% for the period under review, accounting for 66% of total tourist arrivals. France, our leading source market recorded a growth of 8%, i.e. an additional 12,700 arrivals, to reach 175,400 at the

end of 1999 while arrivals from United Kingdom increased by 12% to attain 58,700. Among the other major markets, arrivals from Germany grew by 3% while those from Italy and Switzerland remained at about the same levels. Growths in minor markets such as Spain (+31%) and Netherlands (+33%) have also been encouraging. Trends among the other European countries were as follows: Austria (+4%), Belgium (+15%), Sweden (+13%) and CIS (-28%).

Tourist arrivals from Africa regressed by 4% and accounted for 27% of all arrivals in 1999. Arrivals from our leading source country of the region, Reunion Island, decreased slightly to stand at 83,750 in 1999 compared to 83,970 in 1998 while those from Republic of South Africa witnessed a drop of 6% to 46,600 in 1999. Changes in arrivals from other African countries were as follows: Kenya (-2%), Malagasy Republic (-15%), Seychelles (-8%) and Zimbabwe (-31%).

A 4% growth from the Asian continent was observed and accounted for 5% of total tourist arrivals. Arrivals from India, the largest market of the continent, increased by 8%. Among other Asian countries the following changes were observed: Hong Kong (-11%), Japan (-7%), Malaysia (-1%), People's Republic of China (-7%) and Singapore (+4%).

Arrivals from Oceania have dropped by 9%, mostly attributable to Australia (-9%).

Arrivals from the continent of America have remained nearly at the same level as the previous year. An increase of 6% was registered in arrivals from USA in 1999 while arrivals from Canada dropped by 5%.

2. Tourist Nights

The number of nights spent in Mauritius in 1999 is estimated at 5.8 million, i.e. an increase of 4% over the previous year (Table 6). The average length of stay of a tourist works out to 10 nights.

3. Hotel Statistics

The opening of a new hotel during the fourth quarter of 1999 brought the total number of registered hotels to 92 at the end of December. The total room capacity for these registered hotels was 8,255 with 16,950 bedplaces (Table 7). The room occupancy rate for 1999 averaged 71% while the bed occupancy rate was 62% (Table 8).

As regards "Large" hotels, i.e. well-established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms, they numbered 32 or 35% of all registered hotels. These "Large" hotels had a total room capacity of 6,010 with 12,200 bedplaces, representing 73% of total room capacity and 72% of total bedplaces. Their room occupancy rate for 1999 was of the order of 75% while bed occupancy rate averaged 67% (Table 8).

4. Gross Tourism Receipts

Gross receipts from tourism for 1999 is estimated at 13,670 million rupees, i.e. an increase of 15% compared to 11,890 million rupees for 1998. The average receipt per tourist was 23,600 rupees compared to 21,300 rupees in 1998. Quarterly figures of tourism receipts are given in Table 6.

5. Employment

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 2000

Based on the trends of previous years, total tourist arrivals is expected to be around 605,000 with gross receipts of the order of 15,000 million rupees.

Central Statistical Office

Ministry of Economic Development, Productivity and Regional Development

Port Louis

February 2000

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
<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	58,456	63,173
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
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>149,894</u>	<u>148,468</u>	<u>161,626</u>	<u>161,963</u>	<u>164,763</u>	<u>166,816</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	<i>323,524</i>	<i>336,589</i>	<i>345,026</i>	<i>362,755</i>	<i>365,283</i>	<i>376,939</i>
July	55,178	48,877	56,918	47,300	61,520	51,412
August	72,013	75,022	73,980	80,635	76,587	80,516
September	52,814	54,316	52,789	53,822	55,333	55,202
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>180,005</u>	<u>178,215</u>	<u>183,687</u>	<u>181,757</u>	<u>193,440</u>	<u>187,130</u>
October	58,074	55,871	62,674	57,243	70,698	63,990
November	69,700	69,597	68,394	69,975	73,541	73,674
December	73,974	59,486	78,240	63,620	74,969	62,383
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>201,748</u>	<u>184,954</u>	<u>209,308</u>	<u>190,838</u>	<u>219,208</u>	<u>200,047</u>
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<i>381,753</i>	<i>363,169</i>	<i>392,995</i>	<i>372,595</i>	<i>412,648</i>	<i>387,177</i>
Whole Year	705,277	699,758	738,021	735,350	777,931	764,116

Table 2 : - Departure of Mauritian residents by country of disembarkation, 1998/99

Country of disembarkation	1998	1999	% Change
EUROPE	37,630	48,504	28.9
Belgium	546	992	81.7
France	17,783	22,415	26.0
Germany	1,607	1,693	5.4
Italy	2,630	2,808	6.8
Switzerland	1,828	1,766	-3.4
United Kingdom	12,754	18,507	45.1
Other European	482	323	-33.0
AFRICA	71,088	66,530	-6.4
Kenya	3,943	1,347	-65.8
Malagasy Republic	4,224	5,130	21.4
Reunion	47,162	43,826	-7.1
Seychelles	3,807	3,742	-1.7
S. Africa, Rep. of	10,900	10,904	0.0
Zimbabwe	938	1,142	21.7
Other African	114	439	285.1
ASIA	30,539	35,132	15.0
Hong Kong	1,931	2,465	27.7
India	12,809	13,392	4.6
Malaysia	1,853	2,852	53.9
Singapore	11,993	13,871	15.7
Saudi Arabia	1,870	2,380	27.3
Other Asian	83	172	107.2
OCEANIA	3,326	3,815	14.7
Australia	3,326	3,813	14.6
Other Oceanian	-	2	-
AMERICA	124	144	16.1
U.S.A	29	26	-10.3
Canada	94	117	24.5
Other American	1	1	-
NOT STATED	-	3	-
All Countries	142,707	154,128	8.0

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	55,128
November	55,424	52,563	56,584
December	55,630	57,146	52,861
<i>4th Quarter</i>	<u>156,356</u>	<u>158,799</u>	<u>164,573</u>
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<u>290,799</u>	<u>293,378</u>	<u>306,139</u>
Whole Year	536,125	558,195	578,085

Table 4 :- Tourist arrivals by main purpose of visit, 1998/99

Purpose of visit	1998	1999	% Change
Holiday	512,746	530,792	3.5
Business	20,663	23,234	12.4
Transit	14,744	13,071	-11.3
Conference	3,958	3,708	-6.3
Sports	946	1,113	17.7
Other & Not Stated	5,138	6,167	20.0
Total	558,195	578,085	3.6

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

Country of residence	1999												% Change 1998/99	
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec		Year
EUROPE	36,079	32,131	34,854	28,247	26,782	21,391	27,919	29,542	28,023	38,272	43,587	31,934	378,761	7.4
Austria	832	898	675	697	561	389	763	582	526	678	953	541	8,095	4.4
Belgium	653	718	724	867	651	691	874	600	870	1,033	1,098	807	9,586	14.6
France	18,254	14,885	16,313	13,821	12,232	8,543	12,180	13,528	10,287	17,655	22,193	15,540	175,431	7.8
Germany	4,604	3,535	4,703	3,265	3,565	2,564	2,825	3,076	3,672	4,404	5,143	3,850	45,206	3.1
Italy	4,410	4,023	3,541	2,197	2,270	2,297	2,186	4,394	2,753	2,593	2,860	3,151	36,675	0.2
Netherlands	327	398	267	322	343	229	485	212	449	479	397	202	4,110	33.2
Spain	251	292	536	321	408	523	561	828	830	690	513	451	6,204	30.9
Sweden	532	732	512	272	144	205	171	75	163	783	624	339	4,552	13.2
Switzerland	1,491	1,145	991	1,275	1,155	761	1,149	530	1,259	2,388	2,635	1,502	16,281	0.6
United Kingdom	3,145	3,956	5,112	4,182	4,674	4,352	5,677	4,972	6,327	6,302	5,730	4,254	58,683	12.2
CIS	332	174	96	156	55	58	103	72	40	86	92	212	1,476	-27.6
Other European	1,248	1,375	1,384	872	724	779	945	673	847	1,181	1,349	1,085	12,462	15.0
AFRICA	20,972	6,640	12,695	10,227	11,472	10,318	11,231	23,963	9,642	12,604	9,326	17,224	156,314	-4.2
Comoros	51	49	74	61	58	69	60	37	63	64	75	67	728	-19.7
Kenya	88	70	192	158	125	151	140	223	101	105	93	209	1,655	-1.7
Malagasy Rep.	534	589	677	722	646	610	632	785	479	691	723	792	7,880	-14.5
Reunion	16,190	2,447	6,451	3,491	6,399	4,245	4,774	17,455	3,216	6,722	3,816	8,543	83,749	-0.3
Seychelles	532	340	431	651	562	552	483	961	566	756	1,050	1,009	7,893	-7.5
S/ Africa Rep. of	3,116	2,794	4,319	3,982	3,116	4,045	4,527	3,708	4,836	3,625	2,850	5,665	46,583	-6.2
Zimbabwe	134	94	181	375	137	144	133	360	131	242	230	445	2,606	-31.3
Other African	327	257	370	787	429	502	482	434	250	399	489	494	5,220	-2.7

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

Country of residence	1999												% Change 1998/99		
	Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov		Dec	Year
ASIA	27,279	1,534	2,366	2,132	2,119	2,814	3,004	2,359	2,551	2,330	2,629	2,269	2,335	28,442	4.3
Hong Kong	969	36	157	57	63	67	52	74	78	46	68	75	86	859	-11.4
India	12,629	654	1,037	1,003	998	1,496	1,615	1,108	1,433	1,065	1,104	979	1,091	13,583	7.6
Japan	2,505	177	362	194	130	117	203	164	223	191	197	188	178	2,324	-7.2
Malaysia	1,544	77	109	119	155	173	224	159	99	94	115	99	106	1,529	-1.0
P. Rep. of China	2,366	108	107	238	148	248	198	132	109	209	263	267	162	2,189	-7.5
Singapore	3,515	232	286	250	335	342	345	296	324	255	308	315	373	3,661	4.2
Other Asian	3,751	250	308	271	290	371	367	426	285	470	574	346	339	4,297	14.6
OCEANIA	9,349	641	334	606	521	825	694	604	784	1,088	933	817	656	8,503	-9.0
Australia	8,913	622	313	581	508	801	655	582	753	999	874	765	623	8,076	-9.4
Other Oceanian	436	19	21	25	13	24	39	22	31	89	59	52	33	427	-2.1
AMERICA	5,842	447	382	417	416	361	498	738	470	292	665	470	675	5,831	-0.2
USA	3,158	242	235	278	245	222	292	373	274	175	392	244	373	3,345	5.9
Canada	1,584	104	94	103	114	102	138	263	134	65	124	96	169	1,506	-4.9
Other American	1,100	101	53	36	57	37	68	102	62	52	149	130	133	980	-10.9
OTHER & N.STATED	60	7	6	3	6	-	5	11	11	8	25	115	37	234	290.0
All Countries	558,195	59,680	41,859	50,707	41,536	42,254	35,910	42,862	57,321	41,383	55,128	56,584	52,861	578,085	3.6

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

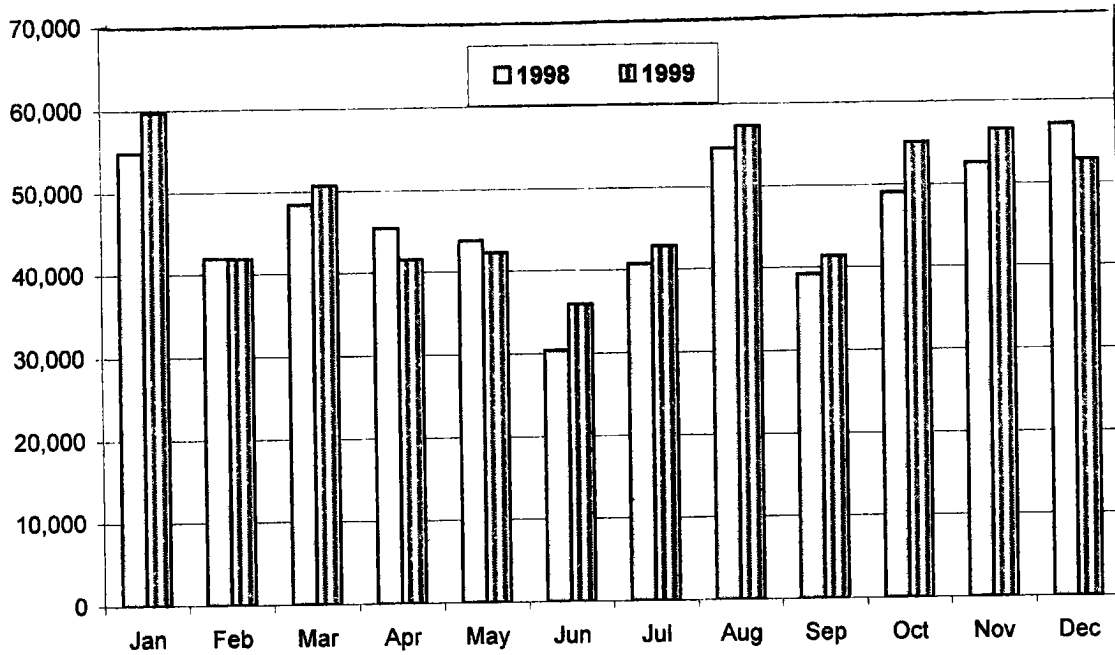


Chart 2 - Tourist Arrivals from Top Ten Markets, 1998 and 1999

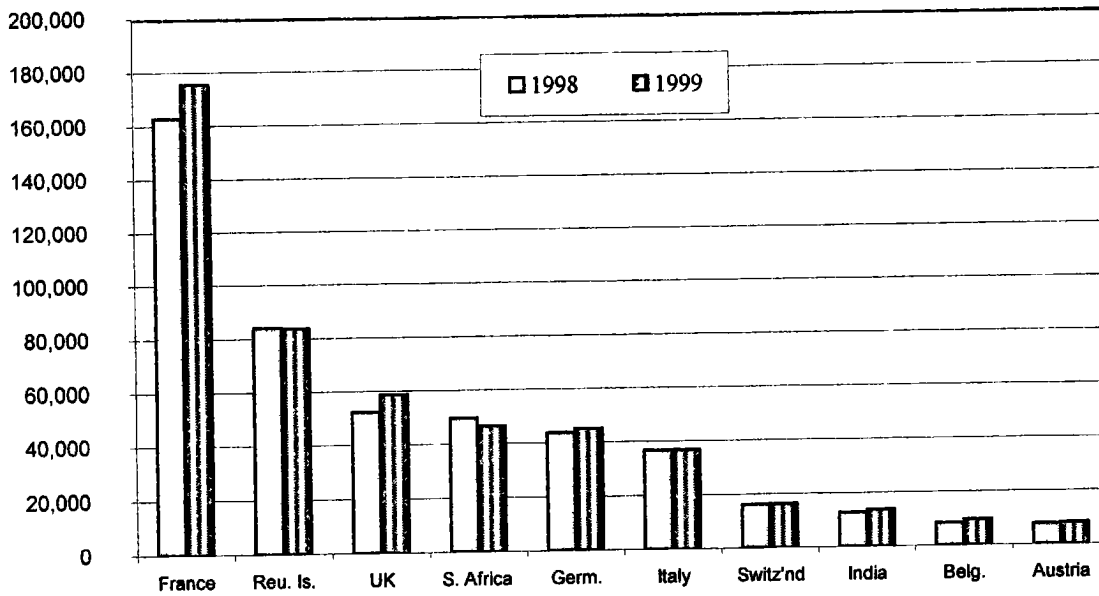


Table 6 :- Selected Tourism Statistics, 1996 - 1999

Year		Tourist arrivals (Number)	Tourist nights (000)	Tourism receipts ¹ (Rs million)
	1996	486,867	4,958	9,048
	1997	536,125	5,451	10,068
	1998	558,195	5,568	11,890
	1999	578,085	5,800	13,668
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 *
	4th Qr.	164,573	1,620 *	3,927 *
	2nd Semester	306,139	3,030 *	7,227 *

* Provisional

¹ Source: Bank of Mauritius

Table 7:- Hotels, rooms and bedplaces, 1996 - 1999

Year	Number as at end of period			
	Hotels	Rooms	Bedplaces	
1996	90	6,668	13,833	
1997	87	6,809	14,126	
1998	90	7,267	14,995	
1999	92	8,255	16,947	
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
	4th Qr.	92	8,255	16,947

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

Month	All Hotels						"Large" Hotels					
	1997		1998		1999*		1997		1998		1999*	
	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed
January	76	67	84	74	79	69	85	75	89	78	83	74
February	68	60	79	69	73	64	84	74	83	73	77	68
March	64	56	73	63	71	62	78	69	78	69	76	67
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>70</u>
April	69	60	70	61	68	59	76	67	75	66	74	65
May	65	56	67	59	67	59	72	63	71	63	73	64
June	53	46	50	44	60	52	58	52	55	48	64	56
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>62</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	66	58	71	62	70	61	76	67	75	66	75	66
July	63	56	59	51	65	57	69	62	64	56	70	62
August	76	67	74	65	73	63	79	70	77	68	74	66
September	78	68	75	65	73	64	85	75	82	72	77	68
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>65</u>
October	73	64	78	69	77	68	81	72	83	74	83	73
November	83	73	84	73	83	73	91	81	87	77	88	78
December	73	64	71	62	61	54	78	69	74	65	62	55
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>68</u>
<i>2nd Semester</i>	74	65	73	64	72	63	80	72	78	69	75	67
Whole Year	72	64	72	63	71	62	78	70	77	68	75	67

* Provisional

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)