



Republic of Mauritius

# ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INDICATORS

An Occasional Paper

ISSUE NO. 322

08 May, 2000

1 ⇨ INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURISM  
1st Quarter 2000

2 ⇨ CONSTRUCTION PRICE INDEX  
1st Quarter 2000

<http://ncb.intnet.mu/medrc.htm>

Price: Rs 30.-

Central Statistical Office  
Ministry of Economic Development, Productivity and Regional Development  
Port-Louis  
Republic of Mauritius

**Note: Readers are invited to make the distinction between official data which are published in the Economic Indicators and the analysis presented for the benefit of general readers. Differences of opinion may arise regarding the analytical part but these do not in any way, undermine the quality of the data. The Editors welcome constructive critical comments.**

# INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURISM

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2000

## 1. Passenger Traffic

### (i) *Total Passenger Traffic*

Passenger traffic for the first quarter of 2000 totalled 440,840, made up of 215,980 arrivals and 224,860 departures. Compared to the first quarter of 1999, these figures represent increases of 8% in arrivals and 7% in departures. Movements by sea accounted for 5% of both arrivals and departures. Table 1 shows monthly details of passenger traffic.

Total arrivals by air included 3,280 "excursionists", i.e. passengers arriving and leaving on the same day. Of these, 1,170 (36%) came from Reunion Island and 790 (24%) from France. Total arrivals by sea also included 6,130 cruise "excursionists" (3,760 passengers and 2,370 crews) aboard 11 cruise ships which visited our port during the first quarter of 2000.

### (ii) *Departures of Mauritian Residents*

During the period under review, the number of Mauritian residents travelling abroad increased by 6%, from 35,970 in 1999 to 38,140 in 2000, and accounted for 17% of total departures. The following trends were observed in the major destinations: France (+21%), Italy (+44%), United Kingdom (-5%), Malagasy Republic (+16%), Reunion Island (-5%), Republic of South Africa (-8%), India (-10%), Malaysia (+293%), Singapore (-6%), Saudi Arabia (+4%) and Australia (+42%). A more detailed distribution by country visited is presented in Table 2.

### (iii) *Tourist Arrivals*

Tourist arrivals during the first quarter increased by 10% from 152,250 in 1999 to 167,690 in 2000. This was mainly due to growths from some major generating countries like France, Italy, Switzerland, Reunion Island and Germany as well as from the emerging markets like Belgium and Austria.

Most (92%) of the tourists came on holiday while 4% were on business/conference trips and 3% were in transit (Table 4).

Table 5 shows that tourist arrivals from Europe, which accounted for 69% of total tourist arrivals, went up by 12% during the first quarter of 2000. France, our leading source market, recorded a growth of 13% to reach a figure of 56,040. Arrivals from Italy increased by 19% from 11,970 in 1999 to 14,190 in 2000, as a result of additional flights. While there was a decrease of 1% from the United Kingdom, growth was registered from the other major generating countries mainly, Germany (+5%) and Switzerland (+43%). Arrivals from some minor markets as Austria (+15%) and Belgium (+27%) have also shown promising trends.

Tourist arrivals from Africa, with a share of 25% of the total, progressed by 4% during the first quarter of 2000. Arrivals from the major generating countries Reunion Island and Republic of South Africa went up by 4% and 2% respectively. Changes in arrivals from other African countries were as follows: Kenya (-15%), Malagasy Republic (-4%), Seychelles (+5%) and Zimbabwe (+26%).

An overall increase of 15% was noted in arrivals from Asia. Arrivals from India, the largest market of the continent reached 2,920, or 8% above the figure for the first quarter of 1999. Changes among other Asian sources were as follows: Hong Kong (+4%), Japan (-20%), Malaysia (+50%) and Singapore (+33%).

Arrivals from Oceania dropped by 3%, mainly as a result of a 5% decline in arrivals from Australia.

Arrivals from the continent of America grew by 34% being the net effect of growth from Canada (+14%) and other American countries (+216%), and a decline of 3% from USA.

## **2. Tourist Nights**

The number of nights spent by tourists in Mauritius during the first three months of 2000 is estimated at 1.65 million, i.e. an increase of 9% over the previous year (Table 6). The average length of stay of a tourist works out to around 10 nights.

### **3. Hotel Statistics**

At the end of March 2000, there was a total of 92 registered hotels in operation. The total room capacity for these registered hotels was 8,270 with 16,980 bedplaces (Table 7). The room occupancy rate for all hotels for the first quarter of 2000 averaged 72% while the bed occupancy rate was 63% (Table 8).

"Large" hotels, i.e. well-established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms, numbered 32 or 35% of all registered hotels. These "Large" hotels had a room capacity of 6,010 with 12,200 bedplaces, representing 73% of total room capacity and 72% of total bedplaces. The average room occupancy rate for these hotels for the first three months of 2000 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 quarter of 2000 is estimated at 3,990 million rupees, i.e. an increase of 13% compared to 3,540 million rupees for 1999. The average receipt per tourist during that period was 23,760 rupees compared to 23,270 rupees in 1999. 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 17,110 at the end of March 1999, that is 4% higher than last year. Of this number, 11,720 or 68% were engaged in hotels (Table 9).

### **6. Forecast Year 2000**

Based on the trends during the first three months of the year and patterns of previous years, total tourist arrivals for the year 2000 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**

**May 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 1998 - 2000

Month	1998		1999		2000	
	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures
January	67,517	80,079	77,871	88,105	80,454	87,472
February	52,753	52,817	57,371	59,233	65,067	66,950
March	63,130	67,896	65,278	62,785	70,454	70,434
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>183,400</u>	<u>200,792</u>	<u>200,520</u>	<u>210,123</u>	<u>215,975</u>	<u>224,856</u>
April	60,745	60,376	58,456	63,173		
May	56,977	59,203	54,703	52,609		
June	43,904	42,384	51,604	51,034		
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>161,626</u>	<u>161,963</u>	<u>164,763</u>	<u>166,816</u>		
<i>1st Semester</i>	<i>345,026</i>	<i>362,755</i>	<i>365,283</i>	<i>376,939</i>		
July	56,918	47,300	61,520	51,412		
August	73,980	80,635	76,587	80,516		
September	52,789	53,822	55,333	55,202		
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>183,687</u>	<u>181,757</u>	<u>193,440</u>	<u>187,130</u>		
October	62,674	57,243	70,698	63,990		
November	68,394	69,975	73,541	73,674		
December	78,240	63,620	74,969	62,383		
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>209,308</u>	<u>190,838</u>	<u>219,208</u>	<u>200,047</u>		
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<i>392,995</i>	<i>372,595</i>	<i>412,648</i>	<i>387,177</i>		
<b>Whole Year</b>	<b>738,021</b>	<b>735,350</b>	<b>777,931</b>	<b>764,116</b>		

**Table 2 : - Departure of Mauritian residents by country of disembarkation,  
January - March of 1999 and 2000**

Country of disembarkation	1st Quarter 1999	1st Quarter 2000	% Change
<b>EUROPE</b>	<b>9,539</b>	<b>11,087</b>	<b>16.2</b>
Belgium	63	378	500.0
France	4,003	4,856	21.3
Germany	265	403	52.1
Italy	738	1,062	43.9
Switzerland	364	515	41.5
United Kingdom	4,008	3,812	-4.9
Other European	98	61	-37.8
<b>AFRICA</b>	<b>15,550</b>	<b>14,852</b>	<b>-4.5</b>
Kenya	401	177	-55.9
Malagasy Republic	1,312	1,525	16.2
Reunion	9,616	9,093	-5.4
Seychelles	800	767	-4.1
S. Africa, Rep. of	3,122	2,880	-7.8
Zimbabwe	200	258	29.0
Other African	99	152	53.5
<b>ASIA</b>	<b>9,717</b>	<b>10,212</b>	<b>5.1</b>
Hong Kong	459	603	31.4
India	3,804	3,417	-10.2
Malaysia	286	1,123	292.7
Singapore	3,135	2,958	-5.6
Saudi Arabia	2,023	2,107	4.2
Other Asian	10	4	-60.0
<b>OCEANIA</b>	<b>1,114</b>	<b>1,580</b>	<b>41.8</b>
Australia	1,114	1,580	41.8
Other Oceanian	-	-	-
<b>AMERICA</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>-14.0</b>
U.S.A	11	6	-45.5
Canada	37	36	-2.7
Other American	2	1	-
<b>NOT STATED</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>35,970</b>	<b>38,136</b>	<b>6.0</b>



**Table 3:- Tourist arrivals by month, 1998 - 2000**

Month	Number		
	1998	1999	2000
January	54,839	59,680	62,355
February	41,928	41,859	50,466
March	48,440	50,707	54,872
<i>1st Quarter</i>	<u>145,207</u>	<u>152,246</u>	<u>167,693</u>
April	45,433	41,536	
May	43,790	42,254	
June	30,387	35,910	
<i>2nd Quarter</i>	<u>119,610</u>	<u>119,700</u>	
<i>1st Semester</i>	<u>264,817</u>	<u>271,946</u>	
July	40,700	42,862	
August	54,651	57,321	
September	39,228	41,383	
<i>3rd Quarter</i>	<u>134,579</u>	<u>141,566</u>	
October	49,090	55,128	
November	52,563	56,584	
December	57,146	52,861	
<i>4th Quarter</i>	<u>158,799</u>	<u>164,573</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<u>293,378</u>	<u>306,139</u>	
<b>Whole Year</b>	<b>558,195</b>	<b>578,085</b>	

**Table 4 :- Tourist arrivals by main purpose of visit,  
January - March of 1999 and 2000**

Purpose of visit	1st Quarter 1999	1st Quarter 2000	% Change
Holiday	141,307	154,584	9.4
Business	5,311	5,478	3.1
Transit	3,544	4,723	33.3
Conference	671	776	15.6
Sports	304	113	-62.8
Other & Not Stated	1,109	2,019	82.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>152,246</b>	<b>167,693</b>	<b>10.1</b>

Table 5 : - Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, January - March of 1999 and 2000

Country of residence	1st Quarter 1999	2000				% Change 1999/2000
		Jan	Feb	Mar	1st Quarter	
<b>EUROPE</b>	<b>103,064</b>	<b>38,236</b>	<b>39,631</b>	<b>37,407</b>	<b>115,274</b>	<b>11.8</b>
Austria	2,405	840	1,054	876	2,770	15.2
Belgium	2,095	827	751	1,076	2,654	26.7
France	49,452	18,541	19,281	18,213	56,035	13.3
Germany	12,842	4,542	4,219	4,671	13,432	4.6
Italy	11,974	5,905	4,425	3,862	14,192	18.5
Netherlands	992	249	431	409	1,089	9.8
Spain	1,079	269	352	400	1,021	-5.4
Sweden	1,776	492	817	489	1,798	1.2
Switzerland	3,627	1,849	1,850	1,474	5,173	42.6
United Kingdom	12,213	3,002	4,469	4,569	12,040	-1.4
CIS	602	374	262	149	785	30.4
Other European	4,007	1,346	1,720	1,219	4,285	6.9
<b>AFRICA</b>	<b>40,307</b>	<b>21,317</b>	<b>7,050</b>	<b>13,527</b>	<b>41,894</b>	<b>3.9</b>
Comoros	174	35	56	81	172	-1.1
Kenya	350	44	106	148	298	-14.9
Malagasy Rep.	1,800	625	580	520	1,725	-4.2
Reunion	25,088	16,597	2,633	6,959	26,189	4.4
Seychelles	1,303	468	434	465	1,367	4.9
S/ Africa Rep. of	10,229	3,005	2,811	4,626	10,442	2.1
Zimbabwe	409	151	135	231	517	26.4
Other African	954	392	295	497	1,184	24.1
<b>ASIA</b>	<b>6,032</b>	<b>1,686</b>	<b>2,682</b>	<b>2,592</b>	<b>6,960</b>	<b>15.4</b>
Hong Kong	250	40	120	100	260	4.0
India	2,694	648	997	1,270	2,915	8.2
Japan	733	145	257	184	586	-20.1
Malaysia	305	92	217	148	457	49.8
P. Rep. of China	453	137	158	163	458	1.1
Singapore	768	236	442	341	1,019	32.7
Other Asian	829	388	491	386	1,265	52.6
<b>OCEANIA</b>	<b>1,581</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>1,532</b>	<b>-3.1</b>
Australia	1,516	407	416	613	1,436	-5.3
Other Oceanian	65	36	31	29	96	47.7
<b>AMERICA</b>	<b>1,246</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>1,674</b>	<b>34.3</b>
USA	755	202	272	258	732	-3.0
Canada	301	111	110	121	342	13.6
Other American	190	171	194	235	600	215.8
<b>OTHER &amp; N.STATED</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>2143.8</b>
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>152,246</b>	<b>62,355</b>	<b>50,466</b>	<b>54,872</b>	<b>167,693</b>	<b>10.1</b>

Chart 1 - Tourist Arrivals from Top Ten Markets,  
January - March of 1999 and 2000

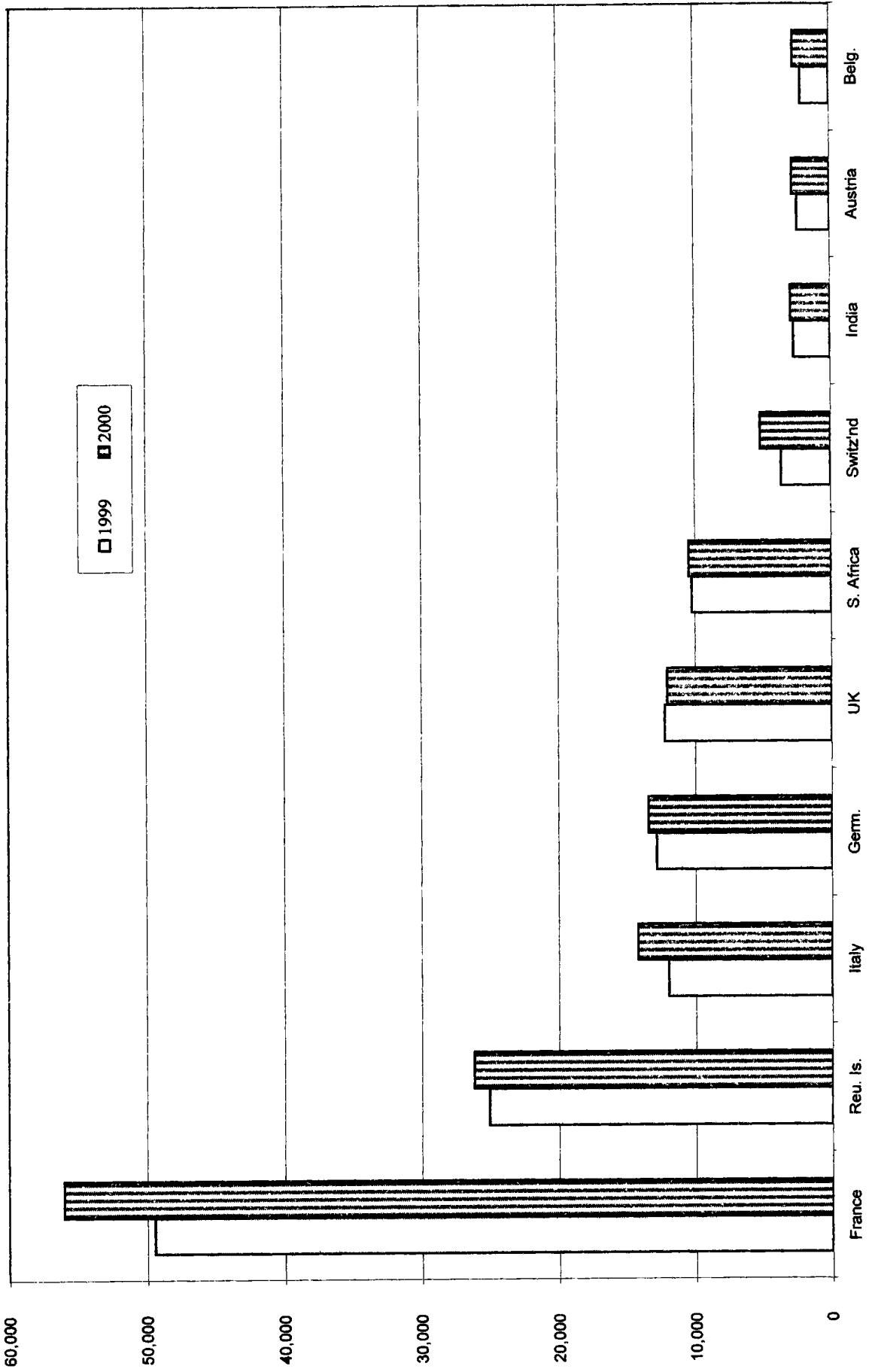


Table 6 :- Selected Tourism Statistics, 1997 - 2000

Year		Tourist arrivals (Number)	Tourist nights (000)	Tourism receipts <sup>1</sup> (Rs million)
	1997	536,125	5,451	10,068
	1998	558,195	5,568	11,890
	1999	578,085	5,729	13,668
<b>1998</b>	1st Qr.	145,207	1,450	3,040
	2nd Qr.	119,610	1,192	2,528
	<b>1st Semester</b>	<b>264,817</b>	<b>2,642</b>	<b>5,568</b>
	3rd Qr.	134,579	1,340	2,714
	4th Qr.	158,799	1,586	3,608
	<b>2nd Semester</b>	<b>293,378</b>	<b>2,926</b>	<b>6,322</b>
<b>1999</b>	1st Qr.	152,246	1,510	3,543 *
	2nd Qr.	119,700	1,190	2,898 *
	<b>1st Semester</b>	<b>271,946</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>6,441 *</b>
	3rd Qr.	141,566	1,400	3,300 *
	4th Qr.	164,573	1,629	3,927 *
	<b>2nd Semester</b>	<b>306,139</b>	<b>3,029</b>	<b>7,227 *</b>
<b>2000</b>	1st Qr.	167,693	1,650	3,985 *

\* Provisional

<sup>1</sup> Source: Bank of Mauritius

Table 7:- Hotels, rooms and bedplaces, 1997 - 2000

Year	Number as at end of period			
	Hotels	Rooms	Bedplaces	
1997	87	6,809	14,126	
1998	90	7,267	14,995	
1999	92	8,255	16,947	
<b>1998</b>	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
<b>1999</b>	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
<b>2000</b>	1st Qr.	92	8,269	16,975

Table 8 :- Monthly Occupancy Rates (%) for All Hotels and "Large" Hotels, 1998- 2000

Month	All Hotels						"Large" Hotels					
	1998		1999		2000*		1998		1999		2000*	
	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed
January	84	74	79	69	73	64	89	78	83	74	75	67
February	79	69	73	64	73	64	83	73	77	68	77	68
March	73	63	71	62	70	62	78	69	76	67	72	64
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>66</u>
April	70	61	68	59			75	66	74	65		
May	67	59	67	59			71	63	73	64		
June	50	44	60	52			55	48	64	56		
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>57</u>			<u>67</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>62</u>		
<i>1st Semester</i>	71	62	70	61			75	66	75	66		
July	59	51	65	57			64	56	70	62		
August	74	65	73	63			77	68	74	66		
September	75	65	73	64			82	72	77	68		
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>61</u>			<u>74</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>65</u>		
October	78	69	77	68			83	74	83	73		
November	84	73	83	73			87	77	88	78		
December	71	62	61	54			74	65	62	55		
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>64</u>			<u>82</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>68</u>		
<i>2nd Semester</i>	73	64	72	63			78	69	75	67		
<b>Whole Year</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>62</b>			<b>77</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>67</b>		

\* Provisional

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

<b>Year</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>
<b>Establishments</b>					
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,855</b>	<b>14,416</b>	<b>15,425</b>	<b>16,490</b>	<b>17,111</b>

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