INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURISM

Year 2003

1. Passenger Traffic

1.1 Total Passenger Traffic

Passenger traffic for the year 2003 totalled 1,789,180, made up of 904,990 arrivals and 884,190 departures. Compared to the preceding year, these figures represent increases of 1.6% in arrivals and 0.2% in departures. Movements by sea accounted for nearly 3% of both arrivals and departures. Table 1 shows monthly details of passenger traffic.

1.2 Excursionists

Total arrivals by air included 10,246 "excursionists", i.e. visitors arriving and leaving on the same day. Of these excursionists, 2,943 (28.7%) came from Reunion Island while 1,960 (19.1%) came from France. Total arrivals by sea included 9,965 "cruise excursionists" (5,651 passengers and 4,314 crews) aboard 16 cruise ships which visited our port in 2003.

1.3 Mauritian Residents

The number of Mauritian residents travelling abroad edged 0.2% lower from 161,534 in 2002 to 161,187 in 2003, and accounted for 18.2% of total departures. The following trends were recorded in the number of Mauritians visiting the major destinations: Malagasy Republic (+62.0%), United Kingdom (+16.3%), Australia (+11.6%), India (+7.4%), France (+0.9%), Republic of South Africa (-3.1%), Reunion Island (-8.8%) and Singapore (-39.7%). Table 2 shows a more detailed distribution of countries visited.

1.4 Tourist Arrivals

Tourist arrivals for the year 2003 attained 702,018, that is 3.0% higher than the figure of 681,648 in 2002. Further details are given in Tables 3 to 6.

Around 91% of the tourists came mainly for holidays while 4.4% were on business/conference trips and another 3.3% were in transit (Table 4).

Arrivals from Europe, which accounted for 66.3% of total tourist arrivals, expanded by 3.1% to 465,379 in the year 2003 against 451,504 in 2002. Arrivals from France, our leading market, representing 28.5% of total tourist arrivals and 43.0% of the European market, regressed by 1.3% to reach 200,229. Among the other major markets, growth was recorded in arrivals from United Kingdom (+13.1%), Italy (+3.9%) and Germany (+0.4%). Trends among the other European countries were as follows: Spain (+16.9%), Sweden (+4.5%), Switzerland (+3.2%), Austria (+1.3%), Belgium (-3.9%) and Netherlands (-4.8%).

In 2003, arrivals from Africa, with a share of 24.8% of total tourist arrivals, registered a growth of 1.0% to attain 174,430. Arrivals from Reunion Island, the major generating country of the region, were down by 0.7%, while those from the Republic of South Africa were up by 7.2%. Changes in arrivals from other African countries were as follows: Comoros (+52.1%), Malagasy Republic (+17.3%), Kenya (+0.2%), Zimbabwe (-26.4%) and Seychelles (-26.7%).

Tourist arrivals from the Asian market grew by 7.9% during the reference period and constituted 6.3% of total tourist arrivals. Arrivals from India, our major source on this continent, rose by 21.4% to reach 25,367. Among the other Asian countries, the following trends were registered: United Arab Emirates (+114.7%), People's Republic of China (-12.0%), Malaysia (-18.4%), Japan (-19.7%), Singapore (-32.5%) and Hong Kong (-43.7%).

Arrivals from Oceania increased by 8.0% due mainly to a rise of 8.5% in arrivals from Australia.

Arrivals from the continent of America grew by 9.3%, being the result of growths from USA (+9.5%), Canada (+0.2%) and other American countries (+19.8%).

2. Tourist Nights

Total tourist nights spent in the country in 2003 is estimated at 7.0 million, up by 2.7% over the preceding year (Table 6).

3. Hotel Statistics

At the end of December 2003, there was a total of 97 registered hotels in operation. Owing to renovation, three hotels were not operational. The total room capacity for these registered hotels in operation was 9,647 with 19,727 bed places (Table 7). The room occupancy rate for all hotels for the year 2003 averaged 63% while the bed occupancy rate was 55% (Table 8).

"Large" hotels, i.e. well-established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms, numbered 38 (39% of all registered hotels). These "Large" hotels had a room capacity of 7,223 with 14,756 bedplaces, representing 74.8% of both total room capacity and total bedplaces. The average room occupancy rate for these hotels for 2003 was of the order of 66%, while bed occupancy rate averaged 58% (Table 8).

4. Gross Tourism Receipts

Data from the Bank of Mauritius indicate that gross tourism receipts for the year 2003 amounted to Rs 19,397 million, which were 5.8% more than the figure of Rs 18,328 million in 2002.

5. Employment

According to the Survey of Employment and Earnings, direct employment in travel and tourism establishments employing 10 persons or more, stood at 22,261 at the end of March 2003, that is 5.4% higher than last year. Of this number, 74.1% or 16,497 were engaged in hotels (Table 9).

6. Forecast Year 2004

On the basis of most recent information obtained from major stakeholders of the tourist industry and on past trends, the forecast of tourist arrivals for 2004 is maintained at 740,000 (+5.4%).

Central Statistics Office Ministry of Finance and Economic Development Port - Louis February 2004

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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.

Month	200	01	20	02	2003		
	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	
January	83,006	96,568	82,203	98,297	82,764	101,301	
February	62,662	63,034	63,657	63,562	66,756	62,720	
March	73,365	74,278	89,745	86,466	84,501	87,275	
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>219,033</u>	233,880	235,605	248,325	234,021	251,296	
April	70,185	68,642	63,961	69,431	70,795	65,828	
May	65,600	69,705	67,030	69,414	68,044	71,992	
June	54,696	51,854	54,781	51,274	57,261	55,374	
2nd Quarter	<u>190,481</u>	<u>190,201</u>	<u>185,772</u>	<u>190,119</u>	<u>196,100</u>	<u>193,194</u>	
1st Semester	409,514	424,081	421,377	438,444	430,121	444,490	
July	77,552	63,875	75,786	62,403	77,754	62,785	
August	72,980	83,574	73,431	84,849	76,492	88,513	
September	63,876	66,230	65,381	65,607	66,150	65,894	
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	214,408	213,679	214,598	212,859	220,396	217,192	
Jan. to Sep.	623,922	637,760	635,975	651,303	650,517	661,682	
October	73,660	70,007	81,830	77,979	80,491	75,517	
November	72,147	70,362	78,362	75,840	77,614	70,212	
December	88,453	72,167	94,939	77,399	96,368	76,779	
4th Quarter	234,260	212,536	<u>255,131</u>	231,218	254,473	222,508	
2nd Semester	448,668	426,215	469,729	444,077	474,869	439,700	
Whole Year	858,182	850,296	891,106	882,521	904,990	884,190	

 Table 1 :- Passenger Traffic by month, 2001 - 2003

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

2002 - 2003

Country of disembarkation	2002	2003	% Change
EUROPE	55,085	60,342	9.5
Belgium	561	1,103	96.6
France	25,168	25,396	0.9
Germany	2,134	3,263	52.9
Italy	3,076	3,088	0.4
Switzerland	2,294	2,133	-7.0
United Kingdom	21,523	25,035	16.3
Other European	329	324	-1.5
AFRICA	60,509	57,705	-4.6
Kenya	1,149	1,228	6.9
Malagasy Republic	2,928	4,743	62.0
Reunion	37,245	33,980	-8.8
Seychelles	3,689	3,200	-13.3
S. Africa, Rep. of	14,460	14,010	-3.1
Zimbabwe	924	506	-45.2
Other African	114	38	-66.7
ASIA	40,379	37,088	-8.2
Hong Kong SAR ¹	7,304	3,898	-46.6
India	13,768	14,792	7.4
Malaysia	1,634	1,422	-13.0
Singapore	11,720	7,062	-39.7
Saudi Arabia	1,473	960	-34.8
Other Asian ²	4,480	8,954	99.9
OCEANIA	4,705	5,251	11.6
Australia	4,705	5,250	11.6
Other Oceanian	0	1	-
AMERICA	89	65	-27.0
U.S.A	16	17	6.3
Canada	73	47	-35.6
Other American	0	1	-
NOT STATED	767	736	-4.0
All Countries	161,534	161,187	-0.2

¹ Special Administrative Region of China
 ² Including United Arab Emirates

Manth	Number							
Month	2001	2002	2003 ¹					
January	65,122	63,551	64,762					
February	49,464	50,554	53,647					
March	55,944	67,554	63,129					
<u>1st Quarter</u>	170,530	<u>181,659</u>	<u>181,538</u>					
April	54,794	48,187	57,217					
May	51,969	53,813	54,710					
June	38,496	39,048	41,841					
2nd Quarter	145,259	141,048	<u>153,768</u>					
1st Semester	315,789	322,707	335,306					
July	57,274	56,709	58,403					
August	52,923	53,395	56,844					
September	48,953	49,774	50,293					
3rd Quarter	<u>159,150</u>	<u>159,878</u>	<u>165,540</u>					
Jan. to Sep.	474,939	482,585	500,846					
October	59,325	65,291	64,917					
November	57,326	61,326	61,984					
December	68,728	72,446	74,271					
4th Quarter	<u>185,379</u>	<u>199,063</u>	<u>201,172</u>					
2nd Semester	344,529	358,941	366,712					
Whole Year	660,318	681,648	702,018					

Table 3 :- Tourist arrivals by month, 2001 - 2003

¹ Provisional

Table 4 :- Tourist arrivals by main purpose of visit, 2002 - 2003

Purpose of visit	2002	2003 ¹	% Change
Holiday	620,124	636,325	2.6
Business	23,730	24,844	4.7
Transit	24,090	23,406	-2.8
Conference	4,828	6,311	30.7
Sports	1,043	2,342	124.5
Other & Not Stated	7,833	8,790	12.2
Total	681,648	702,018	3.0

¹ Provisional

Table 5 :- Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, 2002 - 2003

Country of	Year							2003 1							% Change
residence	2002	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year	2003/2002
EUROPE	451,504	38,932	40,739	43,086	40,500	33,724	27,064	34,988	34,123	33,885	43,921	48,496	45,921	465,379	3.1
Austria	8,782	875	995	742	690	1,029	340	592	374	548	745	1,073	890	8,893	1.3
Belgium	10,579	604	622	891	1,008	738	874	930	655	822	1,055	934	1,037	10,170	-3.9
France	202,869	19,136	17,962	19,642	16,327	14,092	9,971	14,626	13,928	10,023	18,556	24,250	21,716	200,229	-1.3
Germany	53,762	4,475	4,769	5,790	5,385	4,147	3,322	2,860	3,926	4,019	5,056	5,920	4,301	53,970	0.4
Italy	38,263	4,158	4,242	3,731	3,999	1,569	1,830	2,254	3,844	3,081	3,403	2,692	4,971	39,774	3.9
Netherlands	4,625	243	398	381	356	304	314	703	193	450	408	332	321	4,403	-4.8
Spain	7,770	350	507	746	921	778	926	881	1,062	980	808	686	436	9,081	16.9
Sweden	4,647	578	747	466	346	169	219	206	132	143	709	601	541	4,857	4.5
Switzerland	17,371	1,366	1,427	1,498	1,951	1,150	800	1,267	687	1,538	2,032	2,183	2,030	17,929	3.2
United Kingdom	80,667	4,521	6,190	6,990	7,724	8,070	6,954	8,952	7,873	10,427	8,969	7,471	7,069	91,210	13.1
CIS ²	3,129	677	327	269	369	525	164	150	131	178	299	267	598	3,954	26.4
Other European	19,040	1,949	2,553	1,940	1,424	1,153	1,350	1,567	1,318	1,676	1,881	2,087	2,011	20,909	9.8
AFRICA	172,641	21,522	7,772	15,511	12,330	14,655	9,302	18,212	17,598	11,050	15,047	9,038	22,393	174,430	1.0
Comoros	945	72	68	92	107	137	95	105	265	146	142	86	122	1,437	52.1
Kenya	1,507	92	81	137	210	101	113	122	150	90	104	81	229	1,510	0.2
Malagasy Rep.	9,417	952	869	835	971	831	632	859	1,408	751	920	914	1,102	11,044	17.3
Reunion	96,375	15,955	2,731	8,579	4,982	8,974	3,534	11,958	10,152	3,548	9,454	4,051	11,761	95,679	-0.7
Seychelles	13,468	890	897	1,122	1,111	989	740	587	1,023	561	611	626	712	9,869	-26.7
S/ Africa Rep. of	42,685	2,753	2,646	4,054	3,997	2,981	3,497	3,991	3,569	5,325	3,178	2,611	7,154	45,756	7.2
Zimbabwe	3,185	105	108	169	259	144	71	121	447	169	189	233	328	2,343	-26.4
Other African	5,059	703	372	523	693	498	620	469	584	460	449	436	985	6,792	34.3

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¹ Provisional

² Commonwealth of Independent States (Ex Soviet Union Countries)

Table 5 (contd.) :- Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, 2002 - 2003

Country of	Year							2003 ¹							% Change
residence	2002	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year	2003/2002
ASIA	40,796	2,675	4,004	3,273	2,980	5,045	3,996	3,457	3,650	3,478	4,404	3,190	3,861	44,013	7.9
Hong Kong SAR 3	1,201	99	67	70	30	22	18	33	59	69	77	45	87	676	-43.7
India	20,898	1,019	1,744	1,612	2,082	4,361	3,066	2,196	1,751	1,746	2,574	1,340	1,876	25,367	21.4
Japan	1,958	138	221	173	78	49	50	30	138	123	160	193	219	1,572	-19.7
Malaysia	1,944	166	228	114	47	29	33	48	192	145	134	187	263	1,586	-18.4
P. Rep. of China	4,248	422	453	379	142	57	47	71	232	511	574	514	336	3,738	-12.0
Singapore	3,114	175	290	269	50	32	40	50	141	161	210	275	409	2,102	-32.5
United Arab Emirates	1,192	80	201	132	193	212	325	399	369	125	163	212	148	2,559	114.7
Other Asian	6,241	576	800	524	358	283	417	630	768	598	512	424	523	6,413	2.8
OCEANIA	9,030	767	537	612	853	755	821	780	817	1,310	835	662	1,005	9,754	8.0
Australia	8,387	653	497	559	809	728	783	685	769	1,226	788	628	978	9,103	8.5
Other Oceanian	643	114	40	53	44	27	38	95	48	84	47	34	27	651	1.2
AMERICA	7,472	849	574	625	535	498	629	933	638	542	693	586	1,062	8,164	9.3
USA	4,116	504	304	363	298	237	279	595	386	341	367	278	553	4,505	9.5
Canada	1,842	120	120	165	115	113	173	230	125	82	159	147	296	1,845	0.2
Other American	1,514	225	150	97	122	148	177	108	127	119	167	161	213	1,814	19.8
OTHER & N.STATED	205	17	21	22	19	33	29	33	18	28	17	12	29	278	35.6
All Countries	681,648	64,762	53,647	63,129	57,217	54,710	41,841	58,403	56,844	50,293	64,917	61,984	74,271	702,018	3.0

¹ Provisional

³ Special Administrative Region of China

	Year	Tourist arrivals (Number)	Tourist nights (000)	Tourism receipts ¹ (Rs million)
	2000	656,453	6,413	14,234
	2001	660,318	6,528	18,166
	2002	681,648	6,769	18,328
	2003	702,018	6,952	19,397
2001	1st Qr.	170,530	1,682	4,584
	2nd Qr.	145,259	1,442	3,825
	1st Semester	315,789	3,124	8,409
	3rd Qr.	159,150	1,572	4,460
	4th Qr.	185,379	1,832	5,297
	2nd Semester	344,529	3,404	9,757
2002	1st Qr.	181,659	1,795	5,005
	2nd Qr.	141,048	1,404	4,283
	1st Semester	322,707	3,199	9,288
	3rd Qr.	159,878	1,584	4,041
	4th Qr.	199,063	1,986	4,999
	2nd Semester	358,941	3,570	9,040
2003 ²	1st Qr.	181,538	1,785	4,705
	2nd Qr.	153,768	1,527	4,251
	1st Semester	335,306	3,312	8,956
	3rd Qr.	165,540	1,640	4,297
	4th Qr.	201,172	2,000	6,144
	2nd Semester	366,712	3,640	10,441

Table 6 :- Selected Tourism Statistics, 2000 - 2003

¹ Source: Bank of Mauritius

² Provisional

	Table 7 :- Hotels	, rooms and bedplaces	, 2000 - 2003
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Year		Number as at end of period						
1 ear		Hotels	Rooms	Bedplaces				
2000		95	8,657	17,776				
2001		95	9,024	18,350				
2002		95	9,623	19,597				
2003		97	9,647	19,727				
2001	1st Qr.	95	8,667	17,796				
	2nd Qr.	95	8,715	17,972				
	3rd Qr.	95	8,640	17,718				
	4th Qr.	95	9,024	18,350				
2002	1st Qr.	94	8,770	17,846				
	2nd Qr.	89	8,136	16,588				
	3rd Qr.	92	8,317	16,875				
	4th Qr.	95	9,623	19,597				
2003 ¹	1st Qr.	96	9,638	19,671				
	2nd Qr.	94	9,574	19,515				
	3rd Qr.	96	9,425	19,249				
	4th Qr.	97 ²	9,647	19,727				

¹ Provisional

² Excluding three hotels not operational because of renovation works.

	All Hotels							"Large" Hotels					
Month	2001		20	2002)3 ¹	20	01	2002		2003 ¹		
	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	
January	74	65	71	63	68	59	78	69	76	68	69	61	
February	67	59	69	62	66	58	70	63	74	66	69	61	
March	68	60	75	66	63	56	72	64	81	72	66	58	
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>60</u>	
April	66	57	62	56	63	55	70	62	68	61	67	59	
May	64	56	67	59	62	55	68	61	73	65	64	56	
June	50	43	50	45	49	43	51	46	53	47	50	44	
2nd Quarter	<u>60</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>53</u>	
1st Semester	66	58	66	59	62	54	70	62	71	64	64	57	
July	55	48	59	52	53	47	57	51	62	56	54	48	
August	62	55	63	56	61	54	65	58	69	62	64	56	
September	68	60	69	62	63	55	74	66	76	68	67	59	
3rd Quarter	<u>63</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>54</u>	
Jan. to Sep.	64	56	65	58	61	54	68	60	71	63	63	56	
October	70	62	76	68	68	60	76	67	82	73	72	64	
November	73	64	76	67	70	61	78	70	81	71	74	65	
December	69	61	70	62	68	60	72	64	72	64	70	62	
4th Quarter	<u>70</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>64</u>	
2nd Semester	66	58	67	60	64	56	70	63	70	62	67	59	
Whole Year	66	58	67	59	63	55	70	62	70	62	66	58	

 Table 8 :- Monthly Occupancy Rates (%) for All Hotels and "Large" Hotels, 2001 - 2003

¹ Provisional

Year Establishments	1999 ¹	2000 ¹	2001	2002	2003 ²
Restaurants	1,168	1,256	1,269	1,252	1,719
Hotels	11,835	13,239	15,023	15,890	16,497
Travel and Tourism	3,232	3,316	3,652	3,974	4,045
Total	16,235	17,811	19,944	21,116	22,261

Table 9 :- Employment in the tourist industry as at end of March, 1999 - 2003

¹ Revised in the light of new classification based on International Standard Industrial Classification Rev. 3

² Provisional

Source: Survey of Employment and Earnings in large Establishments (i.e employing 10 or more persons)



