INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURISM

January to September 2005

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INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURISM January to September 2005

1. Passenger Traffic

1.1 Total Passenger Traffic

Passenger traffic for the period January to September 2005 totalled 1,412,181 made up of 699,262 arrivals and 712,919 departures. Compared to the same period of 2004, these figures represent increases of 5.0% in arrivals and 6.4% in departures. Movements by sea accounted for 2.8% of arrivals and 3.0% of departures. Table 1 shows monthly details of passenger traffic.

1.2 Excursionists

Total arrivals by air included 7,835 "excursionists", i.e. visitors arriving and leaving on the same day. Of these excursionists, 2,315 (29.5%) came from Reunion Island while 2,155 (27.5%) came from France. Total arrivals by sea included 8,109 "cruise excursionists" (4,420 passengers and 3,689 crews) aboard 15 cruise ships which visited our port during the first nine months of 2005.

1.3 Mauritian Residents

During the period under review, the number of Mauritian residents travelling abroad went up by 2.3% from 135,873 in 2004 to 138,967 in 2005 and accounted for 19.5% of total departures. The following trends were recorded in the number of Mauritians visiting the major destinations: Malagasy Republic (+43.6%), Hong Kong (+31.3%), Singapore (+22.8%), Australia (+7.1%), United Kingdom (+2.6%), Republic of South Africa (+1.9%), France (-1.5%), India (-3.4%) and Reunion Island (-4.3%). Table 2 shows a more detailed distribution of countries visited.

1.4 Tourist Arrivals

Tourist arrivals grew by 5.1% from 503,294 for the first nine months of 2004 to 528,752 in the corresponding period of 2005. Further details are given in Tables 3 to 6.

Around 90% of the tourists came mainly for holidays while 4.2% were on business/conference trips, and another 3.7% were in transit (Table 4).

Arrivals from Europe, which accounted for 65% of total tourist arrivals, grew by 4.5% to 343,416 during the first nine months of 2005 compared to 328,643 in the same period of 2004. Arrivals from France, our leading market, representing 28% of total tourist arrivals and 43% of the European market, increased by 5.0% to attain 148,012 during this period. Growths were also noted in arrivals from the other major generating countries: United Kingdom (+3.3%) and Germany (+7.1%). On the other hand, a decline of 4.0% was recorded in arrivals from Italy. Trends among the other European countries were as follows: CIS (+21.9%), Spain (+12.1%), Belgium (+3.2%), Netherlands (+1.5%), Austria (+0.9%), Switzerland (-5.3%) and Sweden (-12.8%).

For the period under review, arrivals from Africa, with a share of 25% of total tourist arrivals, registered an increase of 4.3% to reach 131,638. With regards to performance of the major markets of the region, arrivals from the Republic of South Africa increased by 7.8% and those from Reunion Island by 3.8%. Changes in arrivals from other African countries were as follows: Seychelles (+27.4%), Comoros (+23.9%), Zimbabwe (-2.0%), Malagasy Republic (-13.3%) and Kenya (-19.4%).

Tourist arrivals from the Asian market, which constituted 7% of the total, were up by 10.4% during the reference period. Arrivals from India, our major source on this continent, expanded by 23.9% to reach 22,035. The performance of other Asian countries was as follows: People's Republic of China (+8.3%), Japan (-7.4%), United Arab Emirates (-20.0%), Malaysia (-21.6%), Singapore (-21.6%) and Hong Kong (-41.4%).

Arrivals from Oceania went up by 16.2% to 10,126, due to increases in arrivals of 15.1% from Australia and 33.8% from the other Oceanian countries.

Arrivals from the continent of America rose by 2.0% to reach 6,253. This was mainly attributed to increases of 9.5% from USA and 1.1% from "Other American" countries, partly offset by a fall of 11.4% in arrivals from Canada.

2. Tourist Nights

The number of nights spent by tourists during the period January to September 2005 is estimated at around 5.2 million, representing an increase of 5.1% over the same period of 2004 (Table 6).

3. Hotel Statistics

At the end of September 2005, there was a total of 98 registered hotels in operation. Owing to renovation, three hotels were not operational. The total room capacity for these registered hotels in operation was 10,447 with 20,973 bed places (Table 7). The room occupancy rate for all hotels for the first nine months of 2005 averaged 60% while the bed occupancy rate was 54% (Table 8).

"Large" hotels, i.e. well-established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms, numbered 42 (41% of all registered hotels). These "Large" hotels had a room capacity of 7,982 with 16,029 bedplaces, representing 76.4% of both total room capacity and total bed places. The average room occupancy rate for these hotels for the first nine months of 2005 was of the order of 62%, while bed occupancy rate averaged 56% (Table 8).

4. Gross Tourism Receipts

Data from the Bank of Mauritius indicate that gross tourism receipts for the period January to September of 2005 were of the order of Rs 18,012 million, 6.9% higher when compared to Rs 16,847 million for the corresponding period of 2004.

5. Employment

According to the Survey of Employment and Earnings, direct employment in travel and tourism establishments employing 10 persons or more, stood at 25,377 at the end of March 2005, that is 12.2% higher than last year. Of this number, 76% or 19,226 were engaged in hotels (Table 9).

6. Forecast Year 2005

On the basis of most recent information obtained from major stakeholders of the tourist industry, the forecast of tourist arrivals for 2005 is maintained at 755,000 i.e 5.0% higher than the figure of 718,861 registered in 2004. According to the Bank of Mauritius, tourism receipts for the year 2005 will be around Rs 26,426 million (+12.7%).

Central Statistics Office Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. Port Louis November 2005

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DEFINITION AND 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. Occupancy rate

The room/bed occupancy rate is the ratio of room/bed nights rented to the total

number of room/bed nights available.

= <u>Total number of room/bed nights rented</u> x 100 Total number of room/bed nights available

7. CIS

CIS denotes the Commonwealth of Independent States, which consists of the states of the former Soviet Union.

Month	20	003	20)04	20)05	
	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	
January	82,764	101,301	86,669	106,951	93,809	110,249	
February	66,756	62,720	69,256	63,267	71,350	69,084	
March	84,501	87,275	82,050	78,071	85,353	85,395	
<u>1st Quarter</u>	234,021	251,296	237,975	248,289	250,512	<u>264,728</u>	
April	70,795	65,828	72,901	66,782	71,302	73,753	
May	68,044	71,992	69,183	71,206	73,111	75,814	
June	57,261	55,374	54,924	56,167	61,487	55,736	
2nd Quarter	<u>196,100</u>	<u>193,194</u>	<u>197,008</u>	<u>194,155</u>	205,900	205,303	
1st Semester	430,121	444,490	434,983	442,444	456,412	470,031	
July	77,754	62,785	84,223	68,707	88,752	73,586	
August	76,492	88,513	77,716	88,594	83,314	94,535	
September	66,150	65,894	69,018	70,521	70,784	74,767	
3rd Quarter	220,396	<u>217,192</u>	230,957	227,822	242,850	242,888	
Jan. to Sep.	650,517	661,682	665,940	670,266	699,262	712,919	
October	80,491	75,517	87,848	81,795			
November	77,614	70,212	83,404	83,236			
December	96,368	76,779	102,523	83,163			
4th Quarter	254,473	222,508	<u>273,775</u>	<u>248,194</u>			
2nd Semester	474,869	439,700	504,732	476,016			
Whole Year	904,990	884,190	939,715	918,460			

 Table 1:- Passenger Traffic¹ by month, 2003 - 2005

¹ Excluding inter islands traffic

Country of disembarkation	Jan - Sep 2004	Jan - Sep 2005	% Change
EUROPE	54,382	53,777	-1.1
Belgium	196	20	-89.8
France	22,423	22,093	-1.5
Germany	2,681	1,762	-34.3
Italy	2,743	3,106	13.2
Switzerland	1,616	1,248	-22.8
United Kingdom	24,504	25,146	2.6
Other European	219	402	83.6
AFRICA	41,134	42,293	2.8
Kenya	1,338	38	-97.2
Malagasy Republic	4,163	5,976	43.6
Reunion	23,267	22,260	-4.3
Seychelles	2,161	3,732	72.7
S. Africa, Rep. of	9,770	9,958	1.9
Zimbabwe	359	302	-15.9
Other African	76	27	-64.5
ASIA	35,053	37,414	6.7
Hong Kong SAR ¹	5,662	7,436	31.3
India	13,242	12,791	-3.4
Malaysia	2,011	623	-69.0
Singapore	5,595	6,869	22.8
Saudi Arabia	1,770	1,451	-18.0
United Arab Emirates	6,755	8,147	20.6
Other Asian	18	97	438.9
OCEANIA	4,860	5,208	7.2
Australia	4,860	5,206	7.1
Other Oceanian	-	2	-
AMERICA	65	64	-1.5
U.S.A	9	10	11.1
Canada	56	53	-5.4
Other American	-	1	-
NOT STATED	379	211	-44.3
All Countries	135,873	138,967	2.3

Table 2 : - Departure of Mauritian residents by country of disembarkation,January - September 2004 and 2005

¹ Special Administrative Region of China

М	onth		Number	
IVI	ontn	2003	2004	2005 ¹
January		64,762	66,543	73,053
February		53,647	54,104	56,367
March		63,129	63,631	67,931
	<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>181,538</u>	<u>184,278</u>	<u>197,351</u>
April		57,217	55,599	52,971
May		54,710	53,974	55,995
June		41,841	38,826	42,994
	2nd Quarter	153,768	<u>148,399</u>	<u>151,960</u>
	1st Semester	335,306	332,677	349,311
July		58,403	62,173	65,462
August		56,844	55,342	60,746
September		50,293	53,102	53,233
	3rd Quarter	165,540	<u>170,617</u>	<u>179,441</u>
	Jan. to Sep.	500,846	503,294	528,752
October		64,917	70,793	
November		61,984	66,960	
December		74,271	77,814	
	4th Quarter	<u>201,172</u>	215,567	
	2nd Semester	366,712	386,184	
Who	le Year	702,018	718,861	

Table 3:- Tourist arrivals by month, 2003 - 2005

¹ Provisional

Table 4 :- Tourist arrivals by main purpose of visit, January - September 2004 and 2005

Purpose of visit	Jan - Sep 2004	Jan - Sep 2005	% Change
Holiday	454,797	477,608	5.0
Business	18,694	18,151	-2.9
Transit	18,194	20,043	10.2
Conference	4,195	4,191	-0.1
Sports	1,001	1,049	4.8
Other & Not Stated	6,413	7,710	20.2
Total	503,294	528,752	5.1

	Jan - Sep					200)5 ¹				•	% Change Jan-Sep 2004
Country of residence	2004	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jan - Sep	to Jan-Sep 2005
EUROPE	328,643	46,047	42,889	45,215	36,135	35,039	25,947	39,213	37,783	35,148	343,416	4.5
Austria	7,010	1,161	1,111	932	646	877	381	686	566	714	7,074	0.9
Belgium	5,791	674	534	834	453	729	660	895	520	678	5,977	3.2
France	140,936	22,470	20,050	20,463	17,333	14,478	9,600	17,600	15,027	10,991	148,012	5.0
Germany	36,180	4,857	4,267	5,447	4,112	4,577	2,871	3,642	4,260	4,716	38,749	7.1
Italy	30,971	4,844	3,840	3,892	2,925	2,834	2,023	2,148	4,112	3,123	29,741	-4.0
Netherlands	3,439	279	335	375	331	506	255	518	409	484	3,492	1.5
Spain	6,334	476	753	721	475	647	859	744	1,180	1,245	7,100	12.1
Sweden	2,831	547	648	470	163	124	148	147	84	138	2,469	-12.8
Switzerland	9,859	1,417	1,329	1,230	1,342	711	479	1,170	497	1,165	9,340	-5.3
United Kingdom	65,946	5,212	6,000	7,841	6,686	7,745	6,837	9,322	9,001	9,454	68,098	3.3
CIS ²	3,071	1,022	396	427	422	409	181	216	291	379	3,743	21.9
Other European	16,275	3,088	3,626	2,583	1,247	1,402	1,653	2,125	1,836	2,061	19,621	20.6
AFRICA	126,167	21,563	8,089	17,845	12,078	14,145	9,519	19,373	16,932	12,094	131,638	4.3
Comoros	711	98	56	74	107	110	87	103	122	124	881	23.9
Kenya	1,182	77	97	103	100	95	79	122	165	115	953	-19.4
Malagasy Rep.	6,207	615	699	562	611	522	496	592	814	468	5,379	-13.3
Reunion	68,498	15,872	3,072	9,817	4,499	8,717	3,088	12,885	9,587	3,535	71,072	3.8
Seychelles	5,381	527	517	598	934	822	856	857	954	791	6,856	27.4
S. Africa, Rep. of	37,872	3,841	3,095	5,982	4,931	3,320	4,493	4,237	4,334	6,595	40,828	7.8
Zimbabwe	1,736	138	139	222	307	147	116	168	305	159	1,701	-2.0
Other African	4,580	395	414	487	589	412	304	409	651	307	3,968	-13.4

 Table 5 : - Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, January - September 2004 and 2005

9

						20	05 ¹					% Change
Country of residence	Jan - Sep 2004	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jan - Sep	Jan-Sep 2004 to Jan-Sep 2005
ASIA	33,357	3,276	4,092	3,250	3,024	5,142	5,548	4,584	4,074	3,846	36,836	10.4
Hong Kong SAR ³	696	39	90	58	31	23	42	51	46	28	408	-41.4
India	17,786	1,756	2,282	1,882	1,904	3,815	3,614	2,452	2,066	2,264	22,035	23.9
Japan	1,320	140	243	139	97	78	77	132	161	155	1,222	-7.4
Malaysia	1,361	80	124	133	67	123	176	119	158	87	1,067	-21.6
P. Rep. of China	3,849	439	696	412	322	329	535	566	439	429	4,167	8.3
Singapore	1,654	73	106	129	102	205	265	144	121	151	1,296	-21.6
United Arab Emirates	1,463	110	53	96	81	160	202	208	189	72	1,171	-20.0
Other Asian	5,228	639	498	401	420	409	637	912	894	660	5,470	4.6
OCEANIA	8,715	1,052	651	909	1,005	951	1,247	1,431	1,278	1,602	10,126	16.2
Australia	8,194	860	622	878	951	888	1,170	1,339	1,221	1,500	9,429	15.1
Other Oceanian	521	192	29	31	54	63	77	92	57	102	697	33.8
AMERICA	6,131	1,083	622	685	634	654	689	799	609	478	6,253	2.0
USA	3,139	510	306	429	400	363	388	424	371	246	3,437	9.5
Canada	1,664	165	171	154	115	171	192	243	161	102	1,474	-11.4
Other American	1,328	408	145	102	119	120	109	132	77	130	1,342	1.1
OTHER & N.STATED	281	32	24	27	95	64	44	62	70	65	483	71.9
All Countries	503,294	73,053	56,367	67,931	52,971	55,995	42,994	65,462	60,746	53,233	528,752	5.1

Table 5 (contd.) : - Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, January - September 2004 and 2005

¹ Provisional

² Commonwealth of Independent States (Ex Soviet Union Countries)

³ Special Administrative Region of China

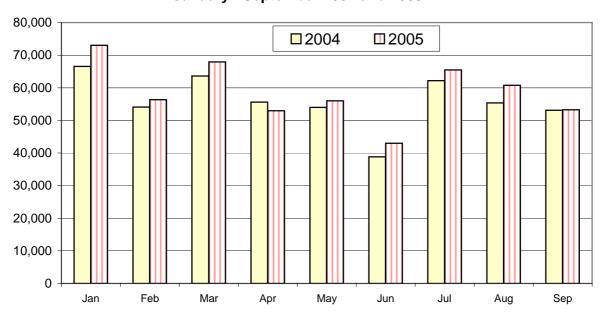
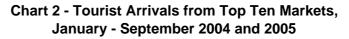
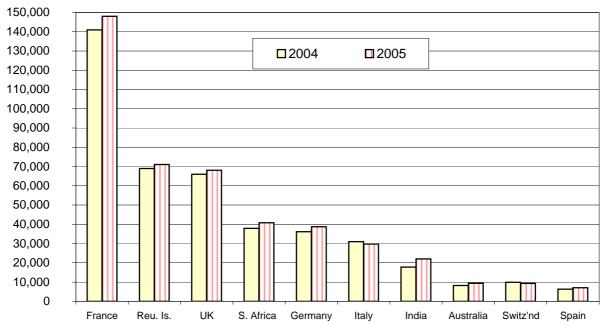


Chart 1 - Monthly Tourist Arrivals, January - September 2004 and 2005





	Year		Tourist nights (000)	Tourism receipts ¹ (Rs million)
	2002		6,769	18,328
	2003	702,018	6,952	19,415
	2004	718,861	7,119	23,448
2003	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	4,286
	4th Qr.	201,172	2,000	6,173
	2nd Semester	366,712	3,640	10,459
2004	1st Qr.	184,278	1,815	6,487
	2nd Qr.	148,399	1,474	5,448
	1st Semester	332,677	3,289	11,935
	3rd Qr.	170,617	1,690	4,912
	4th Qr.	215,567	2,140	6,601
	2nd Semester	386,184	3,830	11,513
2005 ²	1st Qr.	197,351	1,945	7,076
	2nd Qr.	151,960	1,510	5,508
	1st Semester	349,311	3,455	12,584
	3rd Qr.	179,441	1,780	5,428

Table 6 :- Selected Tourism Statistics, 2002 - 2005

¹ Source: Bank of Mauritius

² Provisional

Table 7:- Hotels, rooms and	bedplaces, 2002 - 2005
-----------------------------	------------------------

, v	'ear	Num	ber as at end of p	eriod
1	ear	Hotels	Rooms	Bedplaces
	2002	95	9,623	19,597
	2003	97	9,647	19,727
	2004	103	10,640	21,355
2003	1st Qr.	96	9,638	19,671
	2nd Qr.	94	9,574	19,515
	3rd Qr.	96	9,425	19,249
	4th Qr.	97	9,647	19,727
2004	1st Qr.	94	9,563	19,527
	2nd Qr.	97	9,944	20,295
	3rd Qr.	98	10,008	20,115
	4th Qr.	103	10,640	21,355
2005 ¹	1st Qr.	100	10,571	21,239
	2nd Qr.	97	10,224	20,545
	3rd Qr.	98 ²	10,447	20,973

¹ Provisional

² Excluding three hotels not operational because of renovation works.

			All H	lotels			"Large" Hotels						
Month	20	03	20	2004		2005 ¹		2003		2004		2005 ¹	
	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	
January	68	59	69	61	73	66	69	61	72	64	77	69	
February	66	58	64	57	65	59	69	61	68	60	70	63	
March	63	56	66	58	64	57	66	58	70	62	68	61	
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>64</u>	
April	63	55	63	56	56	50	67	59	67	59	59	53	
Мау	62	55	59	52	55	49	64	56	62	55	58	52	
June	49	43	47	41	45	40	50	44	48	43	45	41	
2nd Quarter	<u>58</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>49</u>	
1st Semester	62	54	61	54	60	53	64	57	64	57	62	56	
July	53	47	52	47	54	49	54	48	55	49	56	50	
August	61	54	58	52	64	57	64	56	62	56	67	60	
September	63	55	64	57	63	57	67	59	69	62	67	60	
3rd Quarter	<u>59</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>57</u>	
Jan. to Sep.	61	54	60	53	60	54	63	56	64	56	62	56	
October	68	60	70	63			72	64	75	67			
November	70	61	74	66			74	65	78	70			
December	68	60	68	61			70	62	72	64			
4th Quarter	<u>69</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>70</u>	63			<u>72</u>	64	<u>75</u>	67			
2nd Semester	64	56	64	58			67	59	68	62			
Whole Year	63	55	63	56			66	58	66	59			

 Table 8 :- Monthly Occupancy Rates (%) for All Hotels and "Large" Hotels, 2003 - 2005

¹ Provisional

Year Establishments	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹
Restaurants	1,269	1,252	1,719	1,623	1,809
Hotels	14,601	15,503	16,096	16,853	19,226
Travel and Tourism	3,652	3,974	4,045	4,137	4,342
Total	19,522	20,729	21,860	22,613	25,377

 Table 9 :- Employment in the tourist industry as at end of March, 2001 - 2005

¹ Revised

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

ANNEX

TECHNICAL NOTE

Sources of data

The main source of data for the compilation of passenger traffic statistics is the Passport and Immigration Office which maintains a database of all passengers entering and leaving the country. The data are extracted from the Embarkation/ Disembarkation cards filled in by all incoming and outgoing passengers. At the end of every month, passenger traffic for that particular month is downloaded and supplied to the statistics unit of the Ministry of Tourism, Leisure and External Communications within fifteen days. Additional data on cruises are supplied by the Mauritius Ports Authority.

To supplement the recurrent statistics a Survey of Outgoing Tourists (SOT) is conducted every two years since 1984 jointly by the Central Statistics Office and the Ministry of Tourism, Leisure and External Communications. This survey covers a representative sample of tourists at departure and provides qualitative and quantitative information on tourists. Results of the survey are published in a report.

Tourism receipts

The Bank of Mauritius is responsible for the estimation of tourism receipts based on monthly statements of Inward and Outward Remittances of Commercial Banks.

Monthly Occupancy Rates

All hotels are contacted by phone at the end of every month for data on room/bed nights available and rented during the month for the calculation of room and bed occupancy rates.

Short-term projections of tourist arrivals

A Tourism Statistics Committee grouping various stakeholders of the tourism industry meet regularly under the chairmanship of the Director of the Central Statistics Office to discuss performance of the tourism sector and to provide information for short-term forecast of tourist arrivals.

Publications

The regular publications of the unit are:

- Monthly tourist arrivals (by mid of each month)
- Quarterly Economic and Social Indicators on International Travel and Tourism (with a lag of seven weeks)
- Quarterly tourism statistics (Pamphlet)
- Digest of International Travel and Tourism (September)
- Handbook of statistical data on tourism (August)
- Report of the Survey of Outgoing Tourists