

# INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURISM

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2006

## 1. Passenger Traffic

### 1.1 Total Passenger Traffic

Passenger traffic for the first quarter of 2006 totalled 551,977, made up of 263,708 arrivals and 288,269 departures. Compared to the same period of year 2005, these figures represent increases of 5.3% in arrivals and 8.9% in departures. Movements by sea accounted for 4.3% of arrivals and 3.9% of departures. Further details on monthly trends are given in Table 1.

### 1.2 Excursionists

Total arrivals by air included 2,587 “excursionists”, i.e. visitors arriving and leaving on the same day. Of these excursionists, 834 (32.2%) came from Reunion Island and 613 (23.7%), from France. Total arrivals by sea included 7,997 “cruise excursionists” (4,818 passengers and 3,179 crews) aboard 14 cruise ships, which visited our port during the first three months of 2006.

### 1.3 Mauritian Residents

During the period under review, the number of Mauritian residents travelling abroad went down by 3.2% to stand at 40,992 against 42,337 for the first quarter of 2005. The following changes were observed in the number of Mauritians visiting the major destinations: Seychelles (+126.3%), Italy (+10.5%), Singapore (+10.4%), Malagasy Republic (+9.2%), France (+7.6%), Australia (+6.8%), India (+6.0%), Republic of South Africa (+1.0%), Hong Kong (-7.0%), United Kingdom (-7.5%), Reunion Island (-16.7%) and United Arab Emirates (-21.0%).

Chart 1 - Percentage distribution of Mauritian departures by major destinations, January - March of 2005 and 2006

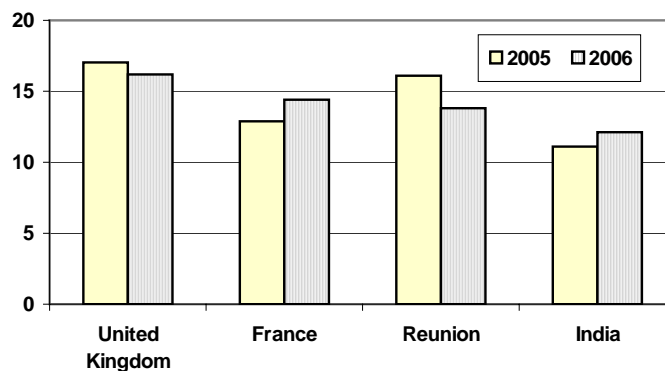
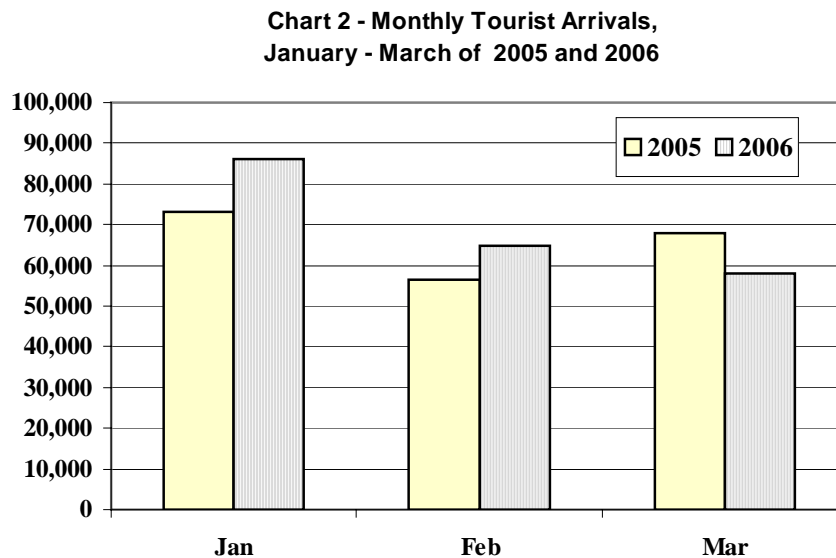


Chart 1 shows the percentage distribution of Mauritian departures by major destinations for the period January to March 2005 and 2006.

#### ***1.4 Tourist Arrivals***

Tourist arrivals grew by 6.0% from 197,351 in the first quarter of 2005 to 209,248 in the first quarter of 2006. Chart 2 shows monthly tourist arrivals for January to March 2005 and 2006. Further details on tourist arrivals are given in Tables 3 to 6.



Around 91% of the tourists came mainly for holidays while 3.9% were on business/conference trips and another 4.1% were in transit (Table 4).

Arrivals from Europe, which accounted for 69% of total tourist arrivals, went up by 8.4% to 145,415 during the first quarter of 2006 against 134,151 in the same quarter of 2005. Arrivals from France, our leading market representing 29% of total tourist arrivals and 41% of the European market, dropped by 5.0% to attain 59,845 during this period. As far as the other major generating countries were concerned, growths were noted in arrivals from Italy (+86.9%), Germany (+8.7%) and United Kingdom (+2.3%). Among the other European countries, the following trend was observed: CIS (+32.2%), Austria (+20.8%), Netherlands (+7.8%), Sweden (-3.2%), Switzerland (-4.4%), Belgium (-6.1%) and Spain (-34.3%).

During the first quarter of 2006, arrivals from Africa, with a share of 22% of total tourist arrivals, fell by 2.8% to 46,146. Arrivals from Reunion Island, the major market of the region, contracted by 6.9% while those from Republic of South Africa expanded by 11.2%.

Changes in arrivals from other African countries were as follows: Seychelles (+20.8%), Kenya (-4.7%), Malagasy Republic (-20.6%), Comoros (-23.2%) and Zimbabwe (-71.5%).

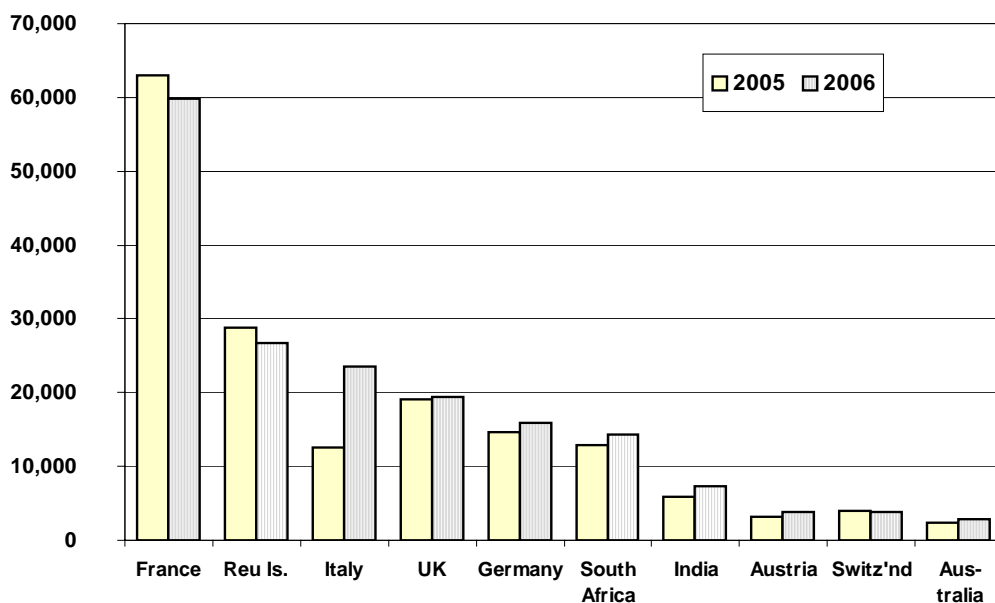
For the period under review, tourist arrivals from the Asian market rose by 13.4% to 12,042 and constituted 6% of total tourist arrivals. Arrivals from India, our major source on this continent, expanded by 23.5% to reach 7,310. The performance of other Asian countries was as follows: Malaysia (+28.5%), Singapore (+9.1%), United Arab Emirates (-10.8%), People's Republic of China (-12.0%), Japan (-16.3%) and Hong Kong (-46.0%).

Arrivals from Oceania went up by 15.9%, reaching 3,027 mainly as a result of an increase of 20.7% in arrivals from Australia.

Arrivals from the continent of America increased by 1.8% to reach 2,434, being the result of increases of 7.3% in arrivals from "Other American" countries and 4.7% from Canada, partly offset by a decrease of 2.2% in those from USA.

Tourist arrivals from top ten markets for the period January to March 2005 and 2006 are given in Chart 3.

**Chart 3 - Tourist Arrivals from Top Ten Markets,  
January - March of 2005 and 2006**



## **2. Tourist Nights**

Total tourist nights spent in the country during the first three months of 2006 is estimated at 2.1 million, representing an increase of 5.9% over the same period of the preceding year.

## **3. Hotel Statistics**

At the end of March 2006, there was a total of 99 registered hotels in operation. Owing to renovation, two hotels were not operational. The total room capacity for these registered hotels was 10,629 with 21,341 bedplaces (Table 7). The room occupancy rate for all hotels for the first quarter of 2006 averaged 72% while the bed occupancy rate was 65% (Table 8).

“Large” hotels, i.e. well-established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms, numbered 42 (42% of all registered hotels). These "Large" hotels had a room capacity of 8,046 with 16,167 bedplaces, representing 76% of both total room capacity and total bedplaces. The average room occupancy rate for these hotels for the first three months of 2006 was 76% while bed occupancy rate averaged 68% (Table 8).

## **4. Gross Tourism Receipts**

Data from the Bank of Mauritius indicate that gross tourism receipts for the first quarter of 2006 were of the order of Rs 9,068 million, i.e. an increase of 28.2% compared to Rs 7,076 million for the same period of 2005 (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 25,377 at the end of March 2005, that is 12.2% more than the previous year. Of this number, 76% or 19,226 were engaged in hotels (Table 9).

## **6. Forecast Year 2006**

In the light of favourable performances registered in January and February 2006- two-digit growths in the number of tourist arrivals over corresponding months of the previous year – attributable to measures taken with respect to air access and marketing, a performance better than the forecast of 825,000 tourist arrivals made in February 2006 could have been expected. However, taking into consideration the number of cancellations registered in the major hotel groups following the spread of the “Chikungunya” disease and the negative growth of 14.4% registered in March 2006, the initial forecast of 825,000 tourist arrivals (+8.4%) in 2006 is maintained. According to the Bank of Mauritius, tourism receipts for the year 2006 will be around Rs 29,424 million (+14.5%).

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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.

$$= \frac{\text{Total number of room/bed nights rented}}{\text{Total number of room/bed nights available}} \times 100$$

### 7. CIS

CIS denotes the Commonwealth of Independent States. It consists of the States of the former Soviet Union.

Table 1:- Passenger Traffic <sup>1</sup> by month, 2004 - 2006

Month	2004		2005		2006	
	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures
January	86,669	106,951	93,809	110,249	108,932	124,313
February	69,256	63,267	71,350	69,084	80,202	80,796
March	82,050	78,071	85,353	85,395	74,574	83,160
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>237,975</u>	<u>248,289</u>	<u>250,512</u>	<u>264,728</u>	<u>263,708</u>	<u>288,269</u>
April	72,901	66,782	71,302	73,753		
May	69,183	71,206	73,111	75,814		
June	54,924	56,167	61,487	55,736		
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>197,008</u>	<u>194,155</u>	<u>205,900</u>	<u>205,303</u>		
<b><i>1st Semester</i></b>	<b><i>434,983</i></b>	<b><i>442,444</i></b>	<b><i>456,412</i></b>	<b><i>470,031</i></b>		
July	84,223	68,707	88,752	73,586		
August	77,716	88,594	83,314	94,535		
September	69,018	70,521	70,784	74,767		
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>230,957</u>	<u>227,822</u>	<u>242,850</u>	<u>242,888</u>		
<b><i>Jan. to Sep.</i></b>	<b><i>665,940</i></b>	<b><i>670,266</i></b>	<b><i>699,262</i></b>	<b><i>712,919</i></b>		
October	87,848	81,795	87,365	84,467		
November	83,404	83,236	88,491	85,783		
December	102,523	83,163	114,795	92,963		
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>273,775</u>	<u>248,194</u>	<u>290,651</u>	<u>263,213</u>		
<b><i>2nd Semester</i></b>	<b><i>504,732</i></b>	<b><i>476,016</i></b>	<b><i>533,501</i></b>	<b><i>506,101</i></b>		
<b>Whole Year</b>	<b>939,715</b>	<b>918,460</b>	<b>989,913</b>	<b>976,132</b>		

<sup>1</sup> Excluding inter islands traffic

**Table 2 : - Departure of Mauritian residents by country of disembarkation,  
1st Quarter of 2005 and 2006**

<b>Country of disembarkation</b>	<b>1st Quarter 2005</b>	<b>1st Quarter 2006</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>EUROPE</b>	<b>14,321</b>	<b>14,510</b>	<b>1.3</b>
Belgium	11	8	-27.3
France	5,477	5,892	7.6
Germany	461	492	6.7
Italy	819	905	10.5
Switzerland	314	520	65.6
United Kingdom	7,200	6,660	-7.5
Other European	39	33	-15.4
<b>AFRICA</b>	<b>12,937</b>	<b>12,780</b>	<b>-1.2</b>
Kenya	-	34	-
Malagasy Republic	1,985	2,167	9.2
Reunion	6,810	5,673	-16.7
Seychelles	646	1,462	126.3
S. Africa, Rep. of	3,378	3,412	1.0
Zimbabwe	111	29	-73.9
Other African	7	3	-57.1
<b>ASIA</b>	<b>12,763</b>	<b>11,278</b>	<b>-11.6</b>
Hong Kong SAR <sup>1</sup>	2,050	1,906	-7.0
India	4,680	4,960	6.0
Malaysia	113	272	140.7
Singapore	1,783	1,968	10.4
Saudi Arabia	1,415	51	-96.4
United Arab Emirates	2,682	2,118	-21.0
Other Asian	40	3	-92.5
<b>OCEANIA</b>	<b>2,237</b>	<b>2,388</b>	<b>6.8</b>
Australia	2,235	2,388	6.8
Other Oceanian	2	-	-100.0
<b>AMERICA</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>-50.0</b>
U.S.A	4	9	125.0
Canada	26	6	-76.9
Other American	-	-	-
<b>NOT STATED</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>-57.1</b>
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>42,337</b>	<b>40,992</b>	<b>-3.2</b>

<sup>1</sup> Special Administrative Region of China



**Table 3:- Tourist arrivals by month, 2004 - 2006**

Month	Number		
	2004	2005	2006 <sup>1</sup>
January	66,543	73,053	86,218
February	54,104	56,367	64,894
March	63,631	67,931	58,136
<i>1st Quarter</i>	<u>184,278</u>	<u>197,351</u>	<u>209,248</u>
April	55,599	52,971	
May	53,974	55,995	
June	38,826	42,994	
<i>2nd Quarter</i>	<u>148,399</u>	<u>151,960</u>	
<i>1st Semester</i>	<b>332,677</b>	<b>349,311</b>	
July	62,173	65,462	
August	55,342	60,746	
September	53,102	53,233	
<i>3rd Quarter</i>	<u>170,617</u>	<u>179,441</u>	
<i>Jan. to Sep.</i>	<b>503,294</b>	<b>528,752</b>	
October	70,793	70,999	
November	66,960	70,793	
December	77,814	90,519	
<i>4th Quarter</i>	<u>215,567</u>	<u>232,311</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<b>386,184</b>	<b>411,752</b>	
<b>Whole Year</b>	<b>718,861</b>	<b>761,063</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Provisional**Table 4 :- Tourist arrivals by main purpose of visit,  
1st Quarter of 2005 and 2006**

Purpose of visit	1st Quarter 2005	1st Quarter 2006	% Change
Holiday	179,511	190,178	5.9
Business	6,003	7,051	17.5
Transit	7,010	8,481	21.0
Conference	2,225	1,200	-46.1
Sports	505	216	-57.2
Other & Not Stated	2,097	2,122	1.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>197,351</b>	<b>209,248</b>	<b>6.0</b>

**Table 5 : - Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, January - March of 2005 and 2006**

Country of residence	1st Quarter 2005	2006 <sup>1</sup>				% Change Q1 2005 to Q1 2006
		Jan	Feb	Mar	1st Quarter	
<b>EUROPE</b>	<b>134,151</b>	<b>56,629</b>	<b>50,950</b>	<b>37,836</b>	<b>145,415</b>	<b>8.4</b>
Austria	3,204	1,311	1,615	945	3,871	20.8
Belgium	2,042	744	629	545	1,918	-6.1
France	62,983	26,467	20,507	12,871	59,845	-5.0
Germany	14,571	6,043	5,387	4,405	15,835	8.7
Italy	12,576	8,415	7,824	7,270	23,509	86.9
Netherlands	989	356	404	306	1,066	7.8
Spain	1,950	332	400	549	1,281	-34.3
Sweden	1,665	553	714	344	1,611	-3.2
Switzerland	3,976	1,472	1,506	822	3,800	-4.4
United Kingdom	19,053	5,688	6,830	6,968	19,486	2.3
CIS <sup>2</sup>	1,845	1,296	462	681	2,439	32.2
Other European	9,297	3,952	4,672	2,130	10,754	15.7
<b>AFRICA</b>	<b>47,497</b>	<b>23,699</b>	<b>8,289</b>	<b>14,158</b>	<b>46,146</b>	<b>-2.8</b>
Comoros	228	45	65	65	175	-23.2
Kenya	277	63	96	105	264	-4.7
Malagasy Rep.	1,876	481	476	532	1,489	-20.6
Reunion	28,761	17,177	2,797	6,814	26,788	-6.9
Seychelles	1,642	650	452	882	1,984	20.8
S. Africa, Rep. of	12,918	4,973	4,023	5,366	14,362	11.2
Zimbabwe	499	48	53	41	142	-71.5
Other African	1,296	262	327	353	942	-27.3
<b>ASIA</b>	<b>10,618</b>	<b>3,798</b>	<b>4,094</b>	<b>4,150</b>	<b>12,042</b>	<b>13.4</b>
Hong Kong SAR <sup>3</sup>	187	40	33	28	101	-46.0
India	5,920	1,949	2,447	2,914	7,310	23.5
Japan	522	180	126	131	437	-16.3
Malaysia	337	198	154	81	433	28.5
P. Rep. of China	1,547	516	498	348	1,362	-12.0
Singapore	308	125	131	80	336	9.1
United Arab Emirates	259	109	46	76	231	-10.8
Other Asian	1,538	681	659	492	1,832	19.1
<b>OCEANIA</b>	<b>2,612</b>	<b>1,053</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>1,248</b>	<b>3,027</b>	<b>15.9</b>
Australia	2,360	989	686	1,174	2,849	20.7
Other Oceanian	252	64	40	74	178	-29.4
<b>AMERICA</b>	<b>2,390</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>2,434</b>	<b>1.8</b>
USA	1,245	483	366	369	1,218	-2.2
Canada	490	202	140	171	513	4.7
Other American	655	290	258	155	703	7.3
<b>OTHER &amp; N.STATED</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>121.7</b>
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>197,351</b>	<b>86,218</b>	<b>64,894</b>	<b>58,136</b>	<b>209,248</b>	<b>6.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Provisional<sup>2</sup> Commonwealth of Independent States (Ex Soviet Union Countries)<sup>3</sup> Special Administrative Region of China

**Table 6 :- Selected Tourism Statistics, 2003 - 2006**

Year		Tourist arrivals (Number)	Tourist nights (000)	Tourism receipts <sup>1</sup> (Rs million)
	2003	702,018	6,952	19,415
	2004	718,861	7,119	23,448
	2005	761,063	7,537	25,704
<b>2004</b>	1st Qr.	184,278	1,815	6,487
	2nd Qr.	148,399	1,474	5,448
	<b>1st Semester</b>	<b>332,677</b>	<b>3,289</b>	<b>11,935</b>
	3rd Qr.	170,617	1,690	4,912
	4th Qr.	215,567	2,140	6,601
	<b>2nd Semester</b>	<b>386,184</b>	<b>3,830</b>	<b>11,513</b>
<b>2005</b>	1st Qr.	197,351	1,945	7,076
	2nd Qr.	151,960	1,510	5,508
	<b>1st Semester</b>	<b>349,311</b>	<b>3,455</b>	<b>12,584</b>
	3rd Qr.	179,441	1,780	5,428
	4th Qr.	232,311	2,302	7,692
	<b>2nd Semester</b>	<b>411,752</b>	<b>4,082</b>	<b>13,120</b>
<b>2006</b> <sup>2</sup>	1st Qr.	209,248	2,060	9,068

<sup>1</sup> Source: Bank of Mauritius<sup>2</sup> Provisional**Table 7:- Hotels, rooms and bedplaces, 2003 - 2006**

Year	Number as at end of period			
	Hotels	Rooms	Bedplaces	
2003	97	9,647	19,727	
2004	103	10,640	21,355	
2005	99	10,497	21,072	
<b>2004</b>	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
<b>2005</b>	1st Qr.	100	10,571	21,239
	2nd Qr.	97	10,224	20,545
	3rd Qr.	98	10,447	20,973
	4th Qr.	99	10,497	21,072
<b>2006</b> <sup>1</sup>	1st Qr.	99 <sup>2</sup>	10,629	21,341

<sup>1</sup> Provisional<sup>2</sup> Excluding two hotels not operational because of renovation works

**Table 8 :- Monthly Occupancy Rates (%) for All Hotels and "Large" Hotels, 2004 - 2006**

Month	All Hotels						"Large" Hotels					
	2004		2005		2006 <sup>1</sup>		2004		2005		2006 <sup>1</sup>	
	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed
January	69	61	73	66	81	72	72	64	77	69	86	77
February	64	57	65	59	76	68	68	60	70	63	81	72
March	66	58	64	57	60	54	70	62	68	61	63	56
<i>1st Quarter</i>	<u>67</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>68</u>
April	63	56	56	50			67	59	59	53		
May	59	52	55	49			62	55	58	52		
June	47	41	45	40			48	43	45	41		
<i>2nd Quarter</i>	<u>56</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>48</u>			<u>59</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>49</u>		
<i>1st Semester</i>	<b>61</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>53</b>			<b>64</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>56</b>		
July	52	47	54	49			55	49	56	50		
August	58	52	64	57			62	56	67	60		
September	64	57	63	57			69	62	67	60		
<i>3rd Quarter</i>	<u>58</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>54</u>			<u>62</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>57</u>		
<i>Jan. to Sep.</i>	<b>60</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>54</b>			<b>64</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>56</b>		
October	70	63	68	61			75	67	73	65		
November	74	66	78	70			78	70	83	74		
December	68	61	74	66			72	64	78	70		
<i>4th Quarter</i>	<u>70</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>66</u>			<u>75</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>70</u>		
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<b>64</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>60</b>			<b>68</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>63</b>		
<b>Whole Year</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>57</b>			<b>66</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>59</b>		

<sup>1</sup> Provisional

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

<b>Establishments \ Year</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,522</b>	<b>20,729</b>	<b>21,860</b>	<b>22,613</b>	<b>25,377</b>

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

## 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 (August )
- Handbook of statistical data on tourism (August )
- Report of the Survey of Outgoing Tourists