

# INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURISM

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2009

## Introduction

This issue of the Economic and Social Indicators presents data on International Travel and Tourism and hotel statistics for the first quarter of 2009.

The figures on passenger traffic which have been estimated based on unclean data on international passenger traffic from the Passport and Immigration Office, and other sources are provisional and are therefore subject to revision in the next issue of the publication. Also, separate data on departure of Mauritian residents by country of disembarkation are not presented in this issue as it has not been possible to work out reasonable estimates from the various sources.

A brief on the compilation of these statistics is given at Annex I while Annex II contains a glossary of terms used.

## 2. Passenger Traffic

### 2.1 Total Passenger Traffic

Passenger traffic for the first quarter of 2009 totalled 610,400, made up of 292,400 arrivals and 318,000 departures. Compared to the same period of year 2008, these figures represent decreases of 13.9% in arrivals and 13.2% in departures. Movements by sea accounted for 8.1% of arrivals and 7.5% of departures. Further details on monthly figures are given in Table 1.

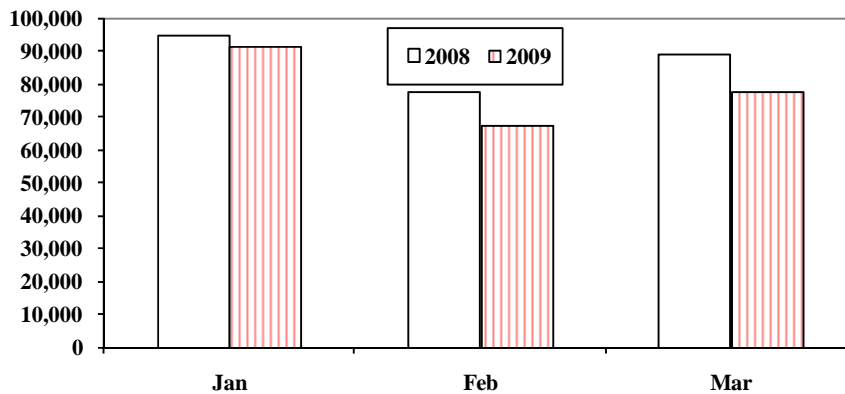
### 2.2 Excursionists

Total arrivals by air included 3,535 "excursionists", i.e. visitors arriving and leaving on the same day. Total arrivals by sea included 23,774 "cruise excursionists" (15,612 passengers and 8,162 crews) on board 19 cruise ships, which visited our port during the first three months of 2009.

### 2.3 Tourist Arrivals

Tourist arrivals for the first quarter of 2009 reached 235,699. This represents a fall of 9.9% over the figure of 261,494 registered in the corresponding quarter of 2008. Figure 1 shows monthly tourist arrivals for January to March of 2008 and 2009. Further details on tourist arrivals are given in Tables 2 to 5.

**Figure 1 - Monthly Tourist Arrivals,  
January - March of 2008 and 2009**



Around 91% of the tourists came mainly for holidays while 1.3% were in transit and another 2.8% were on business/conference trips (Table 3).

Arrivals from Europe, which accounted for 70.1% of total tourist arrivals, decreased by 8.0% to reach 165,318 during the first quarter of 2009 against 179,654 in the corresponding quarter of 2008. Arrivals from France, our leading market representing 31.9% of total tourist arrivals and 45.5% of the European market, decreased by 2.2% to attain 75,225 during this quarter. As regards the other major generating countries of Europe, the following performance was recorded: Arrivals from the United Kingdom decreased by 6.2%, Italy by 14.5% and Germany by 15.2%. Among the remaining European countries, the following trend was observed: CIS (-0.8%), Spain (-1.4%), Netherlands (-1.8%), Switzerland (-13.4%), Austria (-14.5%), Belgium (-16.2%) and Sweden (-27.5%).

During the first quarter of 2009, arrivals from Africa, with a share of 20.8% of total tourist arrivals, decreased by 12.9% to 49,049. Arrivals from Reunion Island, the major market of the region remained at the same level as in the corresponding quarter of 2008 while those from Republic of South Africa fell by 26.2%. Changes in arrivals from other African countries were as follows: Kenya (-16.4%), Malagasy Republic (-31.1%), Seychelles (-35.0%), Zimbabwe (-40.1%) and Comoros (-46.4%).

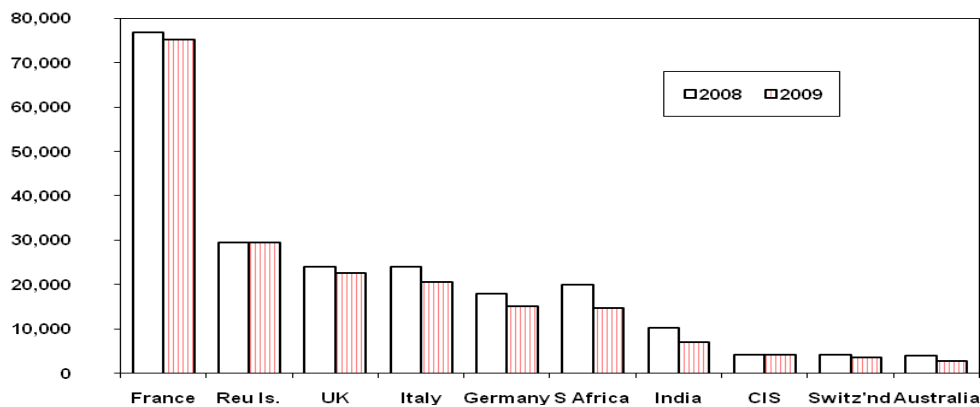
For the period under review, tourist arrivals from the Asian market, which represented 5.6% of total tourist arrivals, fell by 20.8% to attain 13,200. Arrivals from India, our major source on this continent, went down by 32.4% to reach 6,941. The performance of other Asian countries was as follows: People's Republic of China (+10.1%), Japan (-4.1%), Malaysia (-19.1%), Singapore (-53.2%), United Arab Emirates (-67.5%) and Hong Kong (-87.1%).

Arrivals from Oceania went down by 29.8% to 3,014 with a decrease of 31.9% from Australia and an increase of 4.9% from "Other Oceanian countries".

Arrivals from the continent of America decreased by 1.8% to reach 4,334, being the result of an increase of 21.1% from Canada and decreases of 7.4% from USA and 7.1% from "Other American countries".

Tourist arrivals from top ten markets for the period January to March of 2008 and 2009 are given in Figure 2.

**Figure 2 - Tourist Arrivals from Top Ten Markets, January - March of 2008 and 2009**



### **3. Tourist Nights**

Total tourist nights spent in the country during the first three months of 2009 is estimated at 2.3 million, representing a decrease of 10.8% over the same period of 2008 (Table 5).

### **4. Hotel Statistics**

At the end of March 2009, there was a total of 102 registered hotels in operation. Owing to renovation, four hotels were not operational. The total room capacity for these registered hotels was 11,444 with 23,148 bed places (Table 6). The room occupancy rate for all hotels, for the first quarter of 2009, averaged 63% while the bed occupancy rate was 56% (Table 7).

“Large” hotels, i.e. well-established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms, numbered 47 (46% of all registered hotels). These hotels had a room capacity of 8,922 with 18,022 bed places, representing 78.0% of total room capacity and 77.9% of total bed places. The average room occupancy rate for these hotels for the first three months of 2009 was 63% while bed occupancy rate averaged 57% (Table 7).

### **5. Gross Tourism Receipts**

Data from the Bank of Mauritius indicate that gross tourism receipts for the first quarter of 2009 amounted to Rs 10,265 million, i.e. a decline of 14.1% compared to Rs 11,951 million for the same period of 2008 (Table 5).

### **6. Employment**

According to the Survey of Employment and Earnings, direct employment in hotels, restaurants and travel and tourism establishments employing 10 persons or more stood at 28,534 at the end of March 2008 that is 8.4% higher than the figure of 26,322 for March 2007. Of this number, 78.2% or 22,314 were engaged in hotels (Table 8).

## **7. Forecast Year 2009**

Based on information gathered from the main stakeholders of the sector and a decrease of 9.9% observed in tourist arrivals during the first quarter of 2009, the forecast of tourist arrivals for the year is estimated to be around 835,000 (-10.3%).

According to the Bank of Mauritius tourism receipts for the year 2009 will be around Rs 38,173 million (-7.4%) compared to Rs 41,213 million a year earlier.

**Central Statistics Office**

**Ministry of Finance and Economic Empowerment**

**Port Louis**

**27 May 2009**

**Contact person:**

Mr. M. Lan Pin Wing  
Senior Statistical Officer  
Ministry of Tourism, Leisure and  
External Communications  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Victoria House  
Port Louis  
Tel: 211-9042  
Fax: 210-3901  
Email: [mlan-pin-wing@mail.gov.mu](mailto:mlan-pin-wing@mail.gov.mu)

## LIST OF TABLES

<b>Table</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Page</b>
1	Passenger Traffic by month, 2007 - 2009	7
2	Tourist arrivals by month, 2007 - 2009	8
3	Tourist arrivals by main purpose of visit, 1st Quarter of 2008 and 2009	8
4	Tourist arrivals by country of residence, January - March of 2008 and 2009	9
5	Tourist arrivals, nights and receipts, 2006 - 2009	10
6	Hotels, rooms and bedplaces, 2006 - 2009	10
7	Monthly occupancy rates (%) for All hotels and "Large" hotels, 2007 - 2009	11
8	Employment in the tourist industry as at end of March, 2004 - 2008	12

### ANNEX

- I BRIEF ON COMPILATION OF PASSENGER TRAFFIC STATISTICS
- II GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Table 1:- Passenger Traffic <sup>1</sup> by month, 2007 - 2009

Month	2007		2008		2009 <sup>2</sup>	
	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures
January	114,503	133,861	125,228	144,490	113,300	133,400
February	86,655	86,343	98,424	99,897	85,600	86,800
March	99,841	103,396	115,987	122,014	93,500	97,800
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>300,999</u>	<u>323,600</u>	<u>339,639</u>	<u>366,401</u>	<u>292,400</u>	<u>318,000</u>
April	92,982	94,269	96,210	97,364		
May	83,963	86,831	87,375	96,647		
June	74,534	69,782	76,627	63,360		
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>251,479</u>	<u>250,882</u>	<u>260,212</u>	<u>257,371</u>		
<b><i>1st Semester</i></b>	<b><i>552,478</i></b>	<b><i>574,482</i></b>	<b><i>599,851</i></b>	<b><i>623,772</i></b>		
July	106,670	90,663	112,508	91,931		
August	96,148	105,680	98,044	113,039		
September	85,315	87,007	84,194	83,868		
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>288,133</u>	<u>283,350</u>	<u>294,746</u>	<u>288,838</u>		
<b><i>Jan. to Sep.</i></b>	<b><i>840,611</i></b>	<b><i>857,832</i></b>	<b><i>894,597</i></b>	<b><i>912,610</i></b>		
October	101,362	101,361	104,069	101,959		
November	99,885	102,522	98,663	93,176		
December	135,373	114,415	129,099	99,004		
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>336,620</u>	<u>318,298</u>	<u>331,831</u>	<u>294,139</u>		
<b><i>2nd Semester</i></b>	<b><i>624,753</i></b>	<b><i>601,648</i></b>	<b><i>626,577</i></b>	<b><i>582,977</i></b>		
<b>Whole Year</b>	<b>1,177,231</b>	<b>1,176,130</b>	<b>1,226,428</b>	<b>1,206,749</b>		

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

**Table 2:- Tourist arrivals by month, 2007 - 2009**

Month	Number		
	2007	2008	2009 <sup>1</sup>
January	91,628	94,579	91,091
February	72,338	77,763	67,284
March	79,965	89,152	77,324
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>243,931</u>	<u>261,494</u>	<u>235,699</u>
April	70,297	72,837	
May	65,301	67,705	
June	52,584	53,722	
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>188,182</u>	<u>194,264</u>	
<b><i>1st Semester</i></b>	<b><i>432,113</i></b>	<b><i>455,758</i></b>	
July	77,225	81,169	
August	69,941	71,605	
September	65,542	65,632	
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>212,708</u>	<u>218,406</u>	
<b><i>Jan. to Sep.</i></b>	<b><i>644,821</i></b>	<b><i>674,164</i></b>	
October	81,244	83,524	
November	77,236	75,380	
December	103,670	97,388	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>262,150</u>	<u>256,292</u>	
<b><i>2nd Semester</i></b>	<b><i>474,858</i></b>	<b><i>474,698</i></b>	
<b>Whole Year</b>	<b>906,971</b>	<b>930,456</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Provisional**Table 3 :- Tourist arrivals by main purpose of visit,  
1st Quarter of 2008 and 2009**

Purpose of visit	1st Quarter 2008	1st Quarter 2009	% Change
Holiday	233,385	214,760	-8.0
Business	7,150	6,131	-14.3
Transit	12,724	3,129	-75.4
Conference	681	424	-37.7
Sports	302	254	-15.9
Other & Not Stated	7,252	11,001	51.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>261,494</b>	<b>235,699</b>	<b>-9.9</b>

Table 4 : - Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, January - March of 2008 and 2009

Country of residence	1st Quarter 2008	2009 <sup>1</sup>				% Change Q1 2008 to Q1 2009
		Jan	Feb	Mar	1st Quarter	
<b>EUROPE</b>	<b>179,654</b>	<b>60,066</b>	<b>51,291</b>	<b>53,961</b>	<b>165,318</b>	<b>-8.0</b>
Austria	3,616	1,324	1,124	642	3,090	-14.5
Belgium	2,997	897	826	787	2,510	-16.2
France	76,889	27,844	22,059	25,322	75,225	-2.2
Germany	17,858	5,930	4,490	4,730	15,150	-15.2
Italy	24,050	7,573	6,411	6,584	20,568	-14.5
Netherlands	1,245	350	335	537	1,222	-1.8
Spain	2,013	630	697	658	1,985	-1.4
Sweden	3,814	1,032	1,157	575	2,764	-27.5
Switzerland	4,246	1,478	1,202	996	3,676	-13.4
United Kingdom	24,053	6,531	7,560	8,460	22,551	-6.2
CIS <sup>2</sup>	4,172	2,017	749	1,373	4,139	-0.8
Other European	14,701	4,460	4,681	3,297	12,438	-15.4
<b>AFRICA</b>	<b>56,287</b>	<b>23,494</b>	<b>9,332</b>	<b>16,223</b>	<b>49,049</b>	<b>-12.9</b>
Comoros	168	26	36	28	90	-46.4
Kenya	341	101	75	109	285	-16.4
Malagasy Rep.	2,329	543	538	523	1,604	-31.1
Reunion	29,513	15,456	4,285	9,759	29,500	0.0
Seychelles	2,062	404	414	522	1,340	-35.0
S. Africa, Rep. of	19,979	6,396	3,556	4,787	14,739	-26.2
Zimbabwe	349	90	50	69	209	-40.1
Other African	1,546	478	378	426	1,282	-17.1
<b>ASIA</b>	<b>16,675</b>	<b>4,377</b>	<b>4,382</b>	<b>4,441</b>	<b>13,200</b>	<b>-20.8</b>
Hong Kong SAR <sup>3</sup>	171	14	6	2	22	-87.1
India	10,271	2,149	2,283	2,509	6,941	-32.4
Japan	389	132	118	123	373	-4.1
Malaysia	335	100	85	86	271	-19.1
P. Rep. of China	2,409	997	935	720	2,652	10.1
Singapore	355	70	42	54	166	-53.2
United Arab Emirates	570	127	27	31	185	-67.5
Other Asian	2,175	788	886	916	2,590	19.1
<b>OCEANIA</b>	<b>4,294</b>	<b>1,299</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>3,014</b>	<b>-29.8</b>
Australia	4,051	1,216	720	823	2,759	-31.9
Other Oceanian	243	83	67	105	255	4.9
<b>AMERICA</b>	<b>4,412</b>	<b>1,425</b>	<b>1,294</b>	<b>1,615</b>	<b>4,334</b>	<b>-1.8</b>
USA	2,431	660	615	975	2,250	-7.4
Canada	863	333	356	356	1,045	21.1
Other American	1,118	432	323	284	1,039	-7.1
<b>OTHER &amp; N.STATED</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>355.8</b>
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>261,494</b>	<b>91,091</b>	<b>67,284</b>	<b>77,324</b>	<b>235,699</b>	<b>-9.9</b>

<sup>1</sup> Provisional<sup>2</sup> Commonwealth of Independent States (Ex Soviet Union Countries)

**Table 5 :- Tourist arrivals, nights and receipts, 2006 - 2009**

Year		Tourist arrivals (Number)	Tourist nights (000)	Tourism receipts <sup>1</sup> (Rs million)
	2006	788,276	7,761	31,942
	2007	906,971	8,987	40,687
	2008	930,456	9,100	41,213
<b>2007</b>	1st Qr.	243,931	2,297	10,791
	2nd Qr.	188,182	1,666	8,961
	<b>1st Semester</b>	<b>432,113</b>	<b>3,963</b>	<b>19,752</b>
	3rd Qr.	212,708	2,031	8,652
	4th Qr.	262,150	2,993	12,283
	<b>2nd Semester</b>	<b>474,858</b>	<b>5,024</b>	<b>20,935</b>
<b>2008</b>	1st Qr.	261,494	2,550	11,951
	2nd Qr.	194,264	1,750	10,219
	<b>1st Semester</b>	<b>455,758</b>	<b>4,300</b>	<b>22,170</b>
	3rd Qr.	218,406	2,100	8,631
	4th Qr.	256,292	2,700	10,412
	<b>2nd Semester</b>	<b>474,698</b>	<b>4,800</b>	<b>19,043</b>
<b>2009</b> <sup>2</sup>	1st Qr.	235,699	2,275	10,265

<sup>1</sup> Source: Bank of Mauritius<sup>2</sup> Provisional**Table 6:- Hotels, rooms and bedplaces, 2006 - 2009**

Year	Number as at end of period			
	Hotels	Rooms	Bedplaces	
	2006	98	10,666	21,403
	2007	97	10,857	21,788
	2008	102	11,488	23,095
<b>2007</b>	1st Qr.	97	10,683	21,509
	2nd Qr.	88	9,126	18,256
	3rd Qr.	93	10,201	20,454
	4th Qr.	97	10,857	21,788
<b>2008</b>	1st Qr.	96	10,796	21,649
	2nd Qr.	94	10,503	21,063
	3rd Qr.	99	10,933	21,939
	4th Qr.	102	11,488	23,095
<b>2009</b> <sup>1</sup>	1st Qr.	102 <sup>2</sup>	11,444	23,148

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

**Table 7 :- Monthly Occupancy Rates (%) for All Hotels and "Large" Hotels, 2007 - 2009**

Month	All Hotels						"Large" Hotels					
	2007		2008		2009 <sup>1</sup>		2007		2008		2009 <sup>1</sup>	
	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed	Room	Bed
January	86	77	82	73	69	62	89	79	82	74	69	62
February	82	73	78	70	60	53	86	77	80	72	60	54
March	77	69	77	69	59	52	81	72	78	70	59	53
<i>1st Quarter</i>	<u>82</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>57</u>
April	75	67	72	65			80	72	75	67		
May	71	64	66	60			74	67	68	61		
June	59	53	49	43			62	56	49	44		
<i>2nd Quarter</i>	<u>69</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>56</u>			<u>73</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>57</u>		
<i>1st Semester</i>	<b>75</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>63</b>			<b>79</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>65</b>		
July	71	63	61	55			74	67	62	56		
August	74	67	65	58			77	70	67	60		
September	75	67	65	58			78	70	68	61		
<i>3rd Quarter</i>	<u>73</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>57</u>			<u>77</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>59</u>		
<i>Jan. to Sep.</i>	<b>75</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>61</b>			<b>78</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>63</b>		
October	78	70	71	64			81	72	73	65		
November	83	74	69	62			85	77	71	63		
December	80	72	69	62			80	72	70	63		
<i>4th Quarter</i>	<u>81</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>63</u>			<u>83</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>64</u>		
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<b>77</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>60</b>			<b>78</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>61</b>		
<b>Whole Year</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>61</b>			<b>78</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>62</b>		

<sup>1</sup> Provisional

**Table 8 :- Employment in the tourist industry as at end of March, 2004 - 2008**

<b>Year</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008 <sup>1</sup></b>
<b>Establishments</b>					
Restaurants	1,623	1,809	1,805	1,793	2,032
Hotels	16,853	19,226	19,536	20,233	22,314
Travel and Tourism	4,137	4,342	4,457	4,296	4,188
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,613</b>	<b>25,377</b>	<b>25,798</b>	<b>26,322</b>	<b>28,534</b>

<sup>1</sup> Revised

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

## **BRIEF ON COMPILATION OF PASSENGER TRAFFIC STATISTICS**

### **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 the Survey of Outgoing Tourists 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:

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

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

### 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.