**INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM**

**JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER 2022**

1. **INTRODUCTION**

This issue of the Economic and Social Indicators presents data on International Travel and Tourism for the first nine months of 2022. A brief on the compilation of these statistics is given at Annex I and a glossary of terms at Annex II.

It is to be noted that in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, from 01 January to 09 March, travel to and from certain destinations were allowed. The national borders were once more closed down from 10 March to 14 July. Afterwards, as from 15 July to 30 September, travel to and from certain destinations were allowed. However, as from 01 October 2021, Mauritius reopened its borders to all visitors.

1. **INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL**

 **Passenger traffic, January-September, 2021 and 2022**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|   | **January-September 2021** | **January-September 2022 1** |
| Arrivals by |  |  |
|  | Air | 26,384 | 848,129 |
|  | Sea | 544 | 2,740 |
|  |  *of which Cruise travellers* | *0* | *353* |
| **Total** |  | **26,928** | **850,869** |
| Departures by |  |  |
|  | Air | 40,030 | 854,335 |
|  | Sea | 485 | 2,953 |
| **Total** |  | **40,515** | **857,288** |

 ***1 Provisional***

* 1. **Arrivals in January to September 2022**

Compared to the period January to September 2021:

1. total passenger arrivals increased from 26,928 to 850,869;
2. total tourist arrivals increased from 9,460 to 638,332; those arriving by air rose from 8,919 to 636,176, while those arriving by sea increased from 541 to 2,156 (Table 6b).
3. the number of excursionists (arriving and leaving on the same day) increased from 28 to 2,286.
	1. **Departures in January to September 2022**

Compared to the period January to September 2021:

1. total passenger departures increased from 40,515 to 857,288; and
2. departures of Mauritian residents rose from 17,288 to 148,216 (Table 2).

Comparative figures for the first nine months of 2021 and 2022 for Mauritian departures by main country of disembarkation are given in Figure 1 and Table 2. In the first nine months of 2022, the main countries of disembarkation (country of final destination or transit country) for Mauritian residents were United Arab Emirates (37,020 or 25.0%), France (27,508 or 18.6%), Reunion Island (19,392 or 13.1%), United Kingdom (14,849 or 10.0%), India (11,070 or 7.5%) and Republic of South Africa (10,731 or 7.2%).

**Figure 1 - Mauritian departures by main country of disembarkation,**

**January-September of 2021 and January-September of 2022**



1. **TOURISM**
	1. **Tourist arrivals**

Tourist arrivals during the first nine months of 2022 from main markets were as follows:

France (145,366), United Kingdom (96,163), Germany (66,344), Republic of South Africa (65,698), Reunion Island (36,777), India (26,029), Switzerland (15,671) and Saudi Arabia (15,458).

**Figure 2 – Main changes in tourist arrivals by selected country of residence,**

 **January-September 2022 compared to January-September 2021**



In the first nine months of 2022, France, our top tourist generating country, registered an increase of 143,424 tourist arrivals compared to period January to September 2021. Increases in tourist arrivals were also observed in the other main markets as follows:

United Kingdom (+94,822), Germany (+65,937), Republic of South Africa (+65,462), Reunion Island (+36,598), India (+25,313), Switzerland (+15,531) and Saudi Arabia (+15,434).

* 1. **Tourist arrivals by age**

During the period under review, the number of tourists in age group 20-49 years was 343,344 representing 53.8% of tourist arrivals (Table 6a).

**Figure 3 - Tourist arrivals by age group,** **January-September 2022**



* 1. **Tourist arrivals by air and by main port of last embarkation for selected markets**

From Table 7, it is observed that during the first nine months of 2022, tourists from France (63.1%), United Kingdom (54.7%), Germany (45.9%) and Switzerland (40.0%) arrived mainly by direct flights from their own country of residence. Tourists from Italy, Netherlands and Russian Federation travelled mainly through United Arab Emirates which was the most used transiting port. For the period under review, the proportion of tourists from Russian Federation, Netherlands and Italy who travelled to Mauritius through United Arab Emirates were 63.0%, 43.2% and 39.3% respectively.

**3.4 Tourist arrivals - Selected tourist destinations in the Indian Ocean region**

Compared to the first nine months of 2021, increases in tourist arrivals were noted for the following tourist destinations in the Indian Ocean region during the first nine months of 2022:

Maldives (from 870,877 to 1,190,672), Mauritius (from 9,460 to 638,332), Sri Lanka (from 37,924 to 526,232) and Seychelles (from 106,826 to 241,204).

**Figure 4 - Tourist arrivals for Mauritius, Maldives, Sri Lanka & Seychelles,**

**January-September 2021 and January-September 2022**



*Source: Ministry of Tourism, Republic of Maldives; Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority; Seychelles National Bureau of Statistics*

* 1. **Tourist Nights**

Compared to January to September 2021:

* the number of nights spent by tourists who departed during January to September 2022 increased from 489,758 to 7,824,545; and
* the average length of stay decreased from 66.9 to 12.3 nights (Table 8).
	1. **Employment**

Employment data for the tourism sector obtained from the Survey of Employment and Earnings, relate to employment in food service, hotels and travel and other services establishments with 10 or more workers. Latest available data for March 2022 indicate that employment in these establishments decreased by 0.8% to 27,626 as compared to 27,858 for March 2021 (Table 11).

* 1. **Accommodation**
1. Licensed hotels in the Island of Mauritius

As at end of September 2022, there were 112 licensed hotels of which 3 were temporarily closed, 3 were closed due to renovation works and one new hotel not yet in operation. The total room capacity of the 105 hotels in operation was 13,508 with 31,338 bed places (Table 9).

During the first nine months of 2022,

* the room occupancy rate of all licensed hotels in operation averaged 57%, higher compared to 10% in the first nine months of 2021; and
* the bed occupancy rate was 50%, higher compared to 8% in the first nine months of 2021 (Table 10).
1. ‘Large’ hotels in the Island of Mauritius

At the end of September 2022, there were 58 ‘large’ hotels (i.e. well-established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms) in operation. The total room capacity of these 58 ‘large’ hotels was 10,847 with 25,616 bed places. These ‘large’ hotels represent 55% of all licensed hotels in operation but comprise 80% of total room capacity and 82% of total bed places (Table 9).

During the first nine months of 2022,

* the room occupancy rate of ‘large’ hotels was 60%, higher than the 10% registered in the first nine months of 2021;
* the bed occupancy rate was 52%, higher than the 8% recorded in the first nine months of 2021 (Table 10).

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### ***ANNEX I***

### **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 travellers entering and leaving the country. The data are collected from the passport of travellers, disembarkation cards filled in by non-residents and questions put to non-residents entering the country. At the end of every month, the electronic database of passenger traffic for that particular month is downloaded and supplied to the statistics unit of the Ministry of Tourism within ten days. Additional data on cruises are obtained from the Mauritius Ports Authority.

### **Tourism earnings**

The Bank of Mauritius (BoM) is responsible for the estimation of tourism earnings based on monthly statements of Inward and Outward Remittances of Commercial Banks. As from 2015, BoM is also including data culled from Money changers and Foreign exchange dealers.

### **Monthly Occupancy Rates**

Survey questionnaires are emailed to all hotels at the end of every month to collect data on room/bed nights available and rented during the month for the calculation of room and bed occupancy rates. Non-responses are contacted by phone.

### **Short-term projections of tourist arrivals**

A Tourism Statistics Committee grouping various stakeholders of the tourism industry meet regularly under the chairmanship of Statistics Mauritius 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:

1. Monthly tourist arrivals uploaded on Statistics Mauritius website
2. Quarterly Economic and Social Indicators on International Travel and Tourism (with a lag of seven weeks)
3. Yearly Digest of International Travel and Tourism
4. Yearly Handbook of statistical data on tourism
5. Report of the Survey of Inbound Tourism (last publication- Year 2018)

 ***ANNEX II***

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**1. Tourist**

A tourist is defined as a non-resident staying overnight but less than a year, and who has no employer-employee relationship with a resident.

**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 overnight 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 depart on the same day they arrived.

**4. Tourist Nights**

"Tourist nights" for year Y refer to nights spent by tourists who departed in year Y.

**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.

 = Total number of room/bed nights rented x 100

###  Total number of room/bed nights available