**INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM**

**JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER 2023**

1. **INTRODUCTION**

This issue of the Economic and Social Indicators presents data on International Travel and Tourism for the first nine months of 2023. A brief on the compilation of these statistics is given at Annex I and a glossary of terms at Annex II.

1. **INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL**

**Passenger traffic, January-September, 2022 and 2023**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | **January-September 2022** | **January-September 2023 1** |
| Arrivals by | |  |  |
|  | Air | 848,129 | 1,206,483 |
|  | Sea | 2,740 | 25,748 |
|  | *of which Cruise travellers* | *353* | *21,986* |
| **Total** |  | **850,869** | **1,232,231** |
| Departures by | |  |  |
|  | Air | 854,335 | 1,234,574 |
|  | Sea | 2,953 | 24,766 |
| **Total** |  | **857,288** | **1,259,340** |

***1 Provisional***

* 1. **Arrivals in January to September 2023**

Compared to the period January to September2022:

1. total passenger arrivals increased from 850,869 to 1,232,231;
2. total tourist arrivals increased from 638,332 to 901,126; those arriving by air rose from 636,176 to 892,633, while those arriving by sea increased from 2,156 to 8,493 (Table 6b).
3. the number of excursionists (arriving and leaving on the same day) increased from 2,286 to 16,517.

In the first nine months of 2023, 14 cruise ships arrived in the country and carried some 21,986 cruise travellers comprising 5,280 tourists, 9,204 excursionists, 29 Mauritian residents and 7,473 crew members.

* 1. **Departures in January to September 2023**

Compared to the period January to September2022:

1. total passenger departures increased from 857,288 to 1,259,340; and
2. departures of Mauritian residents rose from 148,216 to 227,680 (Table 2).

Comparative figures for the first nine months of 2022 and 2023 for Mauritian departures by main country of disembarkation are given in Figure 1 and Table 2. In the first nine months of 2023, the main countries of disembarkation (country of final destination or transit country) for Mauritian residents were United Arab Emirates (52,069 or 22.9%), France (31,914 or 14.0%), Reunion Island (30,303 or 13.3%), India (20,777 or 9.1%), United Kingdom (19,652 or 8.6%) and Republic of South Africa (18,450 or 8.1%).

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

**January-September 2022 and January-September 2023**



1. **TOURISM**
   1. **Tourist arrivals in January-September 2023**

Tourist arrivals from main markets were as follows:

France (211,069), United Kingdom (101,400), Reunion Island (94,498), Germany (81,035), Republic of South Africa (72,919), India (41,390), Italy (21,033) and Switzerland (20,486) (Table 5).

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

**January-September 2023 compared to January-September 2022**

  
Compared to the first nine months of 2022, tourist arrivals from France, our top tourist generating country, increased by 65,703 from 145,366 to 211,069. Increases in tourist arrivals were also observed in the other main markets as follows:

Reunion Island (+57,721), India (+15,361), Germany (+14,691), Republic of South Africa (+7,221), Italy (+6,797), United Kingdom (+5,237) and Switzerland (+4,815).

* 1. **Tourist arrivals by age**

During the period under review, the number of tourists aged 60 years and above was 136,696 representing 15.2% of tourist arrivals. Among those who arrived by sea, the proportion was much higher at 51.2% (Table 6b).

**Figure 3 - Tourist arrivals by age group, January-September 2023**



* 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 2023, tourists from United Kingdom (57.3%), France (54.5%) and Germany (45.4%) arrived mainly by direct flights from their own country of residence. Tourists from Russian Federation, Netherlands and Switzerland 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 Switzerland who travelled to Mauritius through United Arab Emirates were 86.1%, 47.5% and 34.9% respectively.

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

Compared to the first nine months of 2022, increases in tourist arrivals were noted for the following tourist destinations in the Indian Ocean region during the first nine months of 2023:

Maldives (from 1,190,681 to 1,361,048), Sri Lanka (from 526,232 to 1,016,256), Mauritius (from 638,332 to 901,126) and Seychelles (from 241,204 to 254,302).

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

**January-September 2022 and January-September 2023**



*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 2022:

* the number of nights spent by tourists who departed during January to September 2023 increased from 7,824,545 to 10,494,102; and
* the average length of stay decreased from 12.3 to 11.4 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 2023 indicate that employment in these establishments increased by 1.7% to 28,014 as compared to 27,539 for March 2022 (Table 11).

* 1. **Accommodation**

1. Licensed hotels in the Island of Mauritius

As at end of September 2023, there were 108 licensed hotels of which one was temporarily closed and 5 were closed due to renovation works. The total room capacity of the 102 hotels in operation was 12,502 with 28,450 bed places (Table 9).

During the first nine months of 2023,

* the room occupancy rate of all licensed hotels in operation averaged 73%, higher compared to 57% in the first nine months of 2022; and
* the bed occupancy rate was 65%, higher compared to 50% in the first nine months 2022 (Table 10).

1. ‘Large’ hotels in the Island of Mauritius

At the end of September 2023, there were 56 ‘large’ hotels (i.e. well-established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms) in operation. The total room capacity of these 56 ‘large’ hotels was 9,961 with 23,014 bed places. These ‘large’ hotels represent 55% of all licensed hotels in operation but comprise 80% of total room capacity and 81% of total bed places (Table 9).

During the first nine months of 2023,

* the room occupancy rate of ‘large’ hotels was 75%, higher than the 60% registered in the first nine months of 2022; and
* the bed occupancy rate was 68%, higher than the 52% recorded in the first nine months of 2022 (Table 10).

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**29 November 2023**

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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. Fortnightly tourist arrivals by air uploaded on Statistics Mauritius website
3. Quarterly Economic and Social Indicators on International Travel and Tourism (with a lag of seven weeks)
4. Yearly Digest of International Travel and Tourism
5. Yearly Handbook of statistical data on tourism
6. 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