**INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM**

**1st Quarter 2024**

1. **INTRODUCTION**

This issue of the Economic and Social Indicators presents data on International Travel and Tourism for the first quarter of 2024. 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, 1st Quarter, 2023 and 2024**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | **1st Quarter 2023** | **1st Quarter 2024 1** |
| Arrivals by | |  |  |
|  | Air | 402,877 | 445,226 |
|  | Sea | 19,317 | … |
|  | *of which Cruise travellers* | *18,176* | *…* |
| **Total** |  | **422,194** | **…** |
| Departures by | |  |  |
|  | Air | 428,557 | 463,986 |
|  | Sea | 19,053 | … |
| **Total** |  | **447,610** | **…** |

*1 Provisional*

*…not available*

* 1. **Arrivals by air in 1st Quarter 2024**

Compared to 1st Quarter 2023:

1. passenger arrivals by air increased from 402,877 to 445,226;
2. tourist arrivals by air increased from 299,082 to 328,691 (Table 5).
3. the number of excursionists by air (arriving and leaving on the same day) increased from 1,929 to 3,815.
   1. **Departures by air in 1st Quarter 2024**

Compared to 1st Quarter 2023:

1. passenger departures by air increased from 428,557 to 463,986; and
2. departures of Mauritian residents by air rose from 72,887 to 76,416 (Table 2).

Comparative figures for the first quarters of 2023 and 2024 for Mauritian departures by air and by main country of disembarkation are given in Figure 1 and Table 2. In the first quarter of 2024, the main countries of disembarkation (country of final destination or transit country) for Mauritian residents were United Arab Emirates (18,044 or 23.6%), India (9,278 or 12.1%), Reunion Island (8,874 or 11.6%), France (7,423 or 9.7%), Republic of South Africa (6,690 or 8.8%) and United Kingdom (5,012 or 6.6%).

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

**1st Quarter 2023 and 1st Quarter 2024**



1. **TOURISM**
   1. **Tourist arrivals by air in 1st Quarter 2024**

Tourist arrivals by air from selected markets were as follows:

France (84,860), Reunion Island (34,924), United Kingdom (30,612), Germany (28,502), Republic of South Africa (21,658), Russian Federation (14,390), India (10,043) and Switzerland (8,079) (Table 5).

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

**1st Quarter 2024 compared to 1st Quarter 2023**



Compared to first quarter of 2023, tourist arrivals by air from France, our top tourist generating country, increased by 3,320 from 81,540 to 84,860. Increases in tourist arrivals were also observed in the other selected markets as follows:

Russian Federation (+10,010), Germany (+4,396), India (+2,220), Switzerland (+1,647), Republic of South Africa (+1,261), United Kingdom (+1,115) and Reunion Island (+146).

* 1. **Tourist arrivals by air and age group**

During the period under review, the number of tourists aged 60 years and above was 61,800 representing 18.8% of tourist arrivals by air (Table 6b).

**Figure 3 - Tourist arrivals by air and age group, 1st Quarter 2024**



* 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 quarter of 2024, tourists from Russian Federation (68.5%), France (59.6%), United Kingdom (58.4%), Germany (49.5%) and Italy (43.0%) arrived mainly by direct flights from their own country of residence. Tourists from People’s Republic of China and Netherlands travelled mainly through United Arab Emirates which was the most used transiting port. For the period under review, the proportion of tourists from People’s Republic of China and Netherlands who travelled to Mauritius through United Arab Emirates were 67.3% and 43.2% respectively.

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

Compared to the first quarter of 2023, increases in tourist arrivals by air were noted for the following tourist destinations in the Indian Ocean region during the first quarter of 2024:

Maldives (from 523,926 to 604,004), Sri Lanka (from 331,649 to 623,469), Mauritius (from 299,082 to 328,691) and Seychelles (from 86,720 to 90,193).

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

**1st Quarter 2023 and 1st Quarter 2024**



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

* 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 March 2024, there were 108 licensed hotels of which one was temporarily closed and 2 were closed due to renovation works. The total room capacity of the 105 hotels in operation was 13,326 with 30,066 bed places (Table 9).

During the 1st Quarter 2024,

* the room occupancy rate of all licensed hotels in operation averaged 69%, lower compared to 73% in 1st Quarter 2023; and
* the bed occupancy rate was 62%, lower compared to 65% in 1st Quarter 2023 (Table 10).

1. ‘Large’ hotels in the Island of Mauritius

At the end of March 2024, there were 59 ‘large’ hotels (i.e. well-established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms) in operation. The total room capacity of these 59 ‘large’ hotels was 10,777 with 24,597 bed places. These ‘large’ hotels represent 56% of all licensed hotels in operation but comprise 81% of total room capacity and 82% of total bed places (Table 9).

During the 1st Quarter 2024,

* the room occupancy rate of ‘large’ hotels was 71%, lower than the 74% registered in 1st Quarter of 2023; and
* the bed occupancy rate was 64%, lower than the 67% recorded in 1st Quarter of 2023 (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. 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

***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