**INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM**

**JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER 2024**

1. **INTRODUCTION**

This issue of the Economic and Social Indicators presents data on International Travel and Tourism for the firstnine months 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, January-September, 2023 and 2024**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | **January-September 2023** | **January-September 2024 1** |
| Arrivals by | |  |  |
|  | Air | 1,206,483 | 1,299,254 |
|  | Sea | 25,748 | 64,159 |
|  | *of which Cruise travellers* | *21,986* | *58,207* |
| **Total** |  | **1,232,231** | **1,363,413** |
| Departures by | |  |  |
|  | Air | 1,234,574 | 1,320,716 |
|  | Sea | 24,766 | 62,741 |
| **Total** |  | **1,259,340** | **1,383,457** |

*1 Provisional*

* 1. **Arrivals in January to September 2024**

Compared to the period January to September 2023:

1. total passenger arrivals increased from 1,232,231 to 1,363,413;
2. total tourist arrivals increased from 901,126 to 971,800; those arriving by air rose from 892,633 to 949,481, while those arriving by sea increased from 8,493 to 22,319 (Table 6b).
3. the number of excursionists (arriving and leaving on the same day) increased from 16,517 to 31,619.

In the first nine months of 2024, 34 cruise ships arrived in the country and carried some 58,207 cruise travellers comprising 18,583 tourists, 20,042 excursionists, 242 Mauritian residents and 19,340 crew members.

* 1. **Departures in January to September 2024**

Compared to the period January to September 2023:

1. total passenger departures increased from 1,259,340 to 1,383,457; and
2. departures of Mauritian residents rose from 227,680 to 244,383 (Table 2).

Comparative figures for the first nine months of 2023 and 2024 for Mauritian departures by main country of disembarkation are given in Figure 1 and Table 2. In the first nine months of 2024, the main countries of disembarkation (country of final destination or transit country) for Mauritian residents were United Arab Emirates (58,956 or 24.1%), Reunion Island (30,673 or 12.6%), France (27,183 or 11.1%), India (25,732 or 10.5%), Republic of South Africa (19,824 or 8.1%) and United Kingdom (18,963 or 7.8%).

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

**January-September 2023 and January-September 2024**



1. **TOURISM**
   1. **Tourist arrivals in January to September 2024**

Tourist arrivals from selected markets were as follows:

France (228,745), United Kingdom (111,498), Reunion Island (98,036), Germany (89,391), Republic of South Africa (74,218), India (41,941), Russian Federation (22,681), Switzerland (21,141) and Italy (20,114) (Table 5).

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

**January-September 2024 compared to January-September 2023**



Compared to the first nine months of 2023, tourist arrivals from France, our top tourist generating country, increased by 17,676 from 211,069 to 228,745. Increases in tourist arrivals were also observed in the other selected markets as follows:

Russian Federation (+11,988), United Kingdom (+10,098), Germany (+8,356), Reunion Island (+3,538), Republic of South Africa (+1,299), Switzerland (+655) and India (+551).

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

During the period under review, the number of tourists aged 60 years and above was 157,908 representing 16.2% of tourist arrivals. Among those who arrived by sea, the proportion was much higher at 52.0% (Table 6b).

**Figure 3 - Tourist arrivals by age group, January-September 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 nine months of 2024, tourists from United Kingdom (58.1%), France (54.5%), Germany (39.4%) and Switzerland (36.2%) arrived mainly by direct flights from their own country of residence. Tourists from People’s Republic of China, Russian Federation 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, Russian Federation and Netherlands who travelled to Mauritius through United Arab Emirates were 54.3%, 45.9% and 45.6% respectively.

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

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

Maldives (from 1,364,566 to 1,498,950), Sri Lanka (from 1,016,256 to 1,484,808), Mauritius (from 901,126 to 971,800) and Seychelles (from 254,302 to 254,525).

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

**January-September 2023 and January-September 2024**



*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 2023:

* the number of nights spent by tourists who departed during January to September 2024 increased from 10,494,102 to 11,375,954; and
* the average length of stay increased from 11.4 to 11.6 (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 2024 indicate that employment in these establishments increased by 1.5% to 28,445 as compared to 28,014 for March 2023 (Table 11).

* 1. **Accommodation**

1. Licensed hotels in the Island of Mauritius

As at end of September 2024, there were 111 licensed hotels of which two were temporarily closed, three were closed due to renovation works and one is not yet operational. The total room capacity of the 105 hotels in operation was 13,453 with 30,127 bed places (Table 9).

During the first nine months of 2024,

* the room occupancy rate of all licensed hotels in operation averaged 70%, lower compared to 73% in the first nine months of 2023; and
* the bed occupancy rate was 63%, lower compared to 65% in the first nine months of 2023 (Table 10).

1. ‘Large’ hotels in the Island of Mauritius

At the end of September 2024, there were 57 ‘large’ hotels (i.e. well-established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms) in operation. The total room capacity of these 57 ‘large’ hotels was 10,775 with 24,460 bed places. These ‘large’ hotels represent 54% 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 2024,

* the room occupancy rate of ‘large’ hotels was 72%, lower than the 75% registered in the first nine months of 2023; and
* the bed occupancy rate was 66%, lower than the 68% recorded in the first nine months of 2023 (Table 10).

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**Port Louis**

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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