**INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM**

**YEAR 2024**

1. **INTRODUCTION**

This issue of the Economic and Social Indicators presents data on International Travel and Tourism for the year 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, 2023 and 2024**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | **2023** | **2024 1** | **% Change** |
| Arrivals by | |  |  |  |
|  | Air | 1,716,933 | 1,837,288 | + 7.0 |
|  | Sea | 45,244 | 90,711 | + 100.5 |
|  | *of which cruise travellers* | *40,403* | *83,459* | *+ 106.6* |
| **Total** |  | **1,762,177** | **1,927,999** | **+ 9.4** |
| Departures by | |  |  |  |
|  | Air | 1,712,571 | 1,830,692 | + 6.9 |
|  | Sea | 40,403 | 85,801 | + 112.4 |
| **Total** |  | **1,752,974** | **1,916,493** | **+ 9.3** |

*1 Provisional*

* 1. **Arrivals in 2024**

Compared to 2023:

1. total passenger arrivals increased by 9.4% from 1,762,177 to 1,927,999;
2. total tourist arrivals increased by 6.7% from 1,295,410 to 1,382,177; those arriving by air rose by 5.7% from 1,275,263 to 1,348,400 and those arriving by sea increased by 67.7% from 20,147 to 33,777 (Table 6b). Among those arriving by sea, 28,960 were cruise tourists compared to 16,099, representing a growth of 79.9%.
3. the number of excursionists (arriving and leaving on the same day) increased by 89.0% from 21,871 to 41,344.

In 2024, 49 cruise ships arrived in the country and carried some 83,459 cruise travellers comprising 28,960 tourists, 25,107 excursionists, 426 Mauritian residents and 28,966 crew members.

* 1. **Departures in 2024**

Compared to 2023:

1. total passenger departures increased by 9.3% from 1,752,974 to 1,916,493 and
2. departures of Mauritian residents rose by 9.5% from 319,725 to 350,160 (Table 2).

Comparative figures for 2023 and 2024 for Mauritian departures by main country of disembarkation are given in Figure 1 and Table 2. In 2024, the main countries of disembarkation (country of final destination or transit country) for Mauritian residents were United Arab Emirates (85,131 or 24.3%), Reunion Island (43,625 or 12.5%), India (39,354 or 11.2%), France (35,884 or 10.2%), Republic of South Africa (28,854 or 8.2%) and United Kingdom (25,294 or 7.2%).

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

**2023 and 2024**



1. **TOURISM**

**Figure 2 – Percentage change in main tourism indicators, 2024 compared to 2023**



* 1. **Tourist arrivals in 2024**

Compared to year 2023, tourist arrivals increased by 86,767 or 6.7% to reach 1,382,177 in 2024 as a result of main changes in tourist arrivals from selected markets as shown in Figure 3.

**Figure 3 – Main changes in tourist arrivals by selected country of residence,**

**2024 compared to 2023**



Compared to year 2023, tourist arrivals from France, our top tourist generating country, increased by 19,899 from 319,522 to 339,421. Increases in tourist arrivals were also observed in the other selected markets as follows:

Russian Federation (+13,149 or +84.3%), United Kingdom (+12,315 or +8.4%), Reunion Island (+6,396 or +4.8%), Germany (+5,279 or +4.5%), India (+2,651 or +4.9%), Switzerland (+744 or +2.2%) and Republic of South Africa (+373 or +0.4%).

**Figure 4 – Tourist arrivals from top ten markets, 2023 and 2024**



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

During the period under review, the number of tourists aged 60 years and above was 244,508 representing 17.7% of tourist arrivals. Among those who arrived by sea, the proportion was much higher at 55.8% (Table 6b).

**Figure 5 - Tourist arrivals by age group, 2024**



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

From Table 7, it is observed that during year 2024, tourists from United Kingdom (58.9%), France (54.5%), Switzerland (42.5%) and Germany (40.0%) 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 Russian Federation, People’s Republic of China and Netherlands who travelled to Mauritius through United Arab Emirates were 54.0%, 52.3% and 43.5% respectively.

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

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

Maldives (from 1,882,061 to 2,053,537 or +9.1%), Sri Lanka (from 1,487,303 to 2,053,465 or +38.1%), Mauritius (from 1,295,410 to 1,382,177 or +6.7%) and Seychelles (from 350,879 to 352,762 or +0.5%).

**Figure 6 - Tourist arrivals for Mauritius, Maldives, Sri Lanka & Seychelles,**

**2023 and 2024**



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

* 1. **Tourist Nights**

Compared to 2023:

* the number of nights spent by tourists who departed during 2024 increased by 7.2% from 14,384,016 to 15,420,230; and
* the average length of stay increased marginally from 11.3 to 11.4 (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 December 2024, there were 111 licensed hotels of which one was temporarily closed and one was closed due to renovation works. The total room capacity of the 109 hotels in operation was 14,059 with 31,484 bed places (Table 9).

During the year 2024,

* the room occupancy rate of all licensed hotels in operation averaged 72%, lower compared to 74% in 2023; and
* the bed occupancy rate was 65%, lower compared to 66% in 2023 (Table 10).

1. ‘Large’ hotels in the Island of Mauritius

At the end of December 2024, there were 61 ‘large’ hotels (i.e. well-established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms) in operation. The total room capacity of these 61 ‘large’ hotels was 11,427 with 25,916 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 year 2024,

* the room occupancy rate of ‘large’ hotels was 74%, lower than the 76% registered in 2023; and
* the bed occupancy rate was 68%, same as recorded in 2023 (Table 10).

**Statistics Mauritius**

**Ministry of Finance**

**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 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