**INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM**

**1st Semester 2025**

1. **INTRODUCTION**

This issue of the Economic and Social Indicators presents data on International Travel and Tourism for the first semester of 2025. 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 Semester, 2024 and 2025**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | **1st Semester 2024** | **1st Semester 2025 1** | **% Change** |
| Arrivals by | |  |  |  |
|  | Air | 851,386 | 890,051 | + 4.5 |
|  | Sea | 61,821 | 63,964 | + 3.5 |
|  | *of which cruise travellers* | *57,583* | *60,805* | *+ 5.6* |
| **Total** |  | **913,207** | **954,015** | **+ 4.5** |
| Departures by | |  |  |  |
|  | Air | 880,788 | 914,475 | + 3.8 |
|  | Sea | 61,507 | 62,903 | + 2.3 |
| **Total** |  | **942,295** | **977,378** | **+ 3.7** |

*1 Provisional*

* 1. **Arrivals in 1st Semester 2025**

Compared to 1st Semester 2024:

1. total passenger arrivals increased by 4.5% from 913,207 to 954,015;
2. total tourist arrivals increased by 2.1% from 645,549 to 658,909; those arriving by air increased by 3.1% from 624,672 to 643,930 and those arriving by sea decreased by 28.3% from 20,877 to 14,979 (Table 6b). Among those arriving by sea, 12,359 were cruise tourists compared to 18,552, representing a decline of 33.4%.
3. the number of excursionists (arriving and leaving on the same day) increased by 38.6% from 26,325 to 36,474.

In the first semester of 2025, 28 cruise ships arrived in the country and carried some 60,805 cruise travellers comprising 12,359 tourists, 28,508 excursionists, 205 Mauritian residents and 19,733 crew members.

* 1. **Departures in 1st Semester 2025**

Compared to 1st Semester 2024:

1. total passenger departures increased by 3.7% from 942,295 to 977,378 and
2. departures of Mauritian residents rose by 8.9% from 156,617 to 170,507 (Table 2).

Comparative figures for the first semesters of 2024 and 2025 for Mauritian departures by main country of disembarkation are given in Figure 1 and Table 2. In the first semester of 2025, the main countries of disembarkation (country of final destination or transit country) for Mauritian residents were United Arab Emirates (40,676 or 23.9%), India (25,498 or 15.0%), Reunion Island (20,273 or 11.9%), France (16,539 or 9.7%), Republic of South Africa (14,502 or 8.5%) and United Kingdom (10,756 or 6.3%).

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

**1st Semester 2024 and 1st Semester 2025**



1. **TOURISM**

**Figure 2 – Main tourism indicators, 1st Semester 2024 and 1st Semester 2025**



* 1. **Tourist arrivals in 1st Semester 2025**

Compared to the first semester of 2024, tourist arrivals increased by 13,360 (+2.1%) to reach 658,909 in first semester 2025 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,**

**1st Semester 2025 compared to 1st Semester 2024**



Compared to the first semester of 2024, tourist arrivals from France, our top tourist generating country, decreased by 4,338 from 156,135 to 151,797. Among the main markets, increases were observed for India (+8,760 or +30.5%), Reunion Island (+2,737 or +4.3%), United Kingdom (+2,598 or +3.8%), Italy (+2,479 or +19.8%) and Republic of South Africa (+398 or +0.8%) while decreases were observed in the other selected markets as follows:

Russian Federation (-2,696 or -14.2%) and Germany (-8,595 or -13.9%).

**Figure 4 – Tourist arrivals from top ten markets, 1st Semester 2024 and 1st Semester 2025**



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

During the period under review, the number of tourists aged 60 years and above was 118,868 representing 18.0% of tourist arrivals. Among those who arrived by sea, the proportion was much higher at 42.1%

(Table 6b).

**Figure 5 - Tourist arrivals by age group, 1st Semester 2025**



* 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 semester of 2025, tourists from United Kingdom (59.9%), France (57.4%), Austria (48.7%), Germany (43.8%) and Switzerland (43.2%) arrived mainly by direct flights from their own country of residence. Tourists from Russian Federation, 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 Russian Federation, People’s Republic of China and Netherlands who travelled to Mauritius through United Arab Emirates were 83.9%, 52.9% and 50.8% respectively.

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

Compared to the first semester of 2024, increases in tourist arrivals were noted for the following tourist destinations in the Indian Ocean region during the first semester of 2025:

Sri Lanka (from 1,010,249 to 1,168,044 or +15.6%), Maldives (from 1,015,529 to 1,108,132 or +9.1%), Mauritius (from 645,549 to 658,909 or +2.1%) and Seychelles (from 176,168 to 192,407 or +9.2%).

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

**1st Semester 2024 and 1st Semester 2025**



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

* 1. **Tourist Nights**

Compared to 1st Semester 2024:

* the number of nights spent by tourists who departed during the first semester of 2025 increased by 0.2% from 7,667,267 to 7,680,872; and
* the average length of stay decreased from 11.6 to 11.3 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 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 June 2025, there were 111 licensed hotels of which one was temporarily closed and five were closed due to renovation works. The total room capacity of the 105 hotels in operation was 13,470 with 30,043 bed places (Table 9).

During the 1st Semester 2025,

* the room occupancy rate of all licensed hotels in operation averaged 70%, higher compared to 69% in first semester 2024; and
* the bed occupancy rate was 63%, higher compared to 62% in first semester 2024 (Table 10).

1. ‘Large’ hotels in the Island of Mauritius

At the end of June 2025, 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 10,876 with 24,554 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 Semester 2025,

* the room occupancy rate of ‘large’ hotels was 72%, higher than the 71% registered in first Semester 2024; and
* the bed occupancy rate was 66% higher than the 65% recorded in first semester 2024 (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 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