**INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM**

**1st Semester 2023**

1. **INTRODUCTION**

This issue of the Economic and Social Indicators presents data on International Travel and Tourism for the first semester 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, 1st Semester, 2022 and 2023**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | **1st Semester 2022** | **1st Semester 2023 1** |
| Arrivals by | |  |  |
|  | Air | 491,655 | 789,529 |
|  | Sea | 1,798 | 24,261 |
|  | *of which Cruise travellers* | *353* | *21,986* |
| **Total** |  | **493,453** | **813,790** |
| Departures by | |  |  |
|  | Air | 504,741 | 824,102 |
|  | Sea | 2,003 | 23,825 |
| **Total** |  | **506,744** | **847,927** |

***1 Provisional***

* 1. **Arrivals in 1st Semester 2023**

Compared to 1st Semester 2022:

1. total passenger arrivals increased from 493,453 to 813,790;
2. total tourist arrivals increased from 376,556 to 596,466; those arriving by air rose from 375,246 to 589,305, while those arriving by sea increased from 1,310 to 7,161 (Table 6b).
3. the number of excursionists (arriving and leaving on the same day) increased from 1,134 to 13,484.

In the first semester 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 1st Semester 2023**

Compared to 1st Semester 2022:

1. total passenger departures increased from 506,744 to 847,927; and
2. departures of Mauritian residents rose from 80,168 to 145,368 (Table 2).

Comparative figures for the first semesters of 2022 and 2023 for Mauritian departures by main country of disembarkation are given in Figure 1 and Table 2. In the first semester of 2023, the main countries of disembarkation (country of final destination or transit country) for Mauritian residents were United Arab Emirates (33,469 or 23.0%), Reunion Island (19,788 or 13.6%), France (18,686 or 12.9%), India (14,044 or 9.7%), United Kingdom (12,438 or 8.6%) and Republic of South Africa (11,937 or 8.2%).

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

**1st Semester 2022 and 1st Semester 2023**



1. **TOURISM**
   1. **Tourist arrivals in 1st Semester 2023**

Tourist arrivals from main markets were as follows:

France (147,325), United Kingdom (63,424), Reunion Island (62,440), Germany (54,085), Republic of South Africa (45,908), India (27,522), Switzerland (14,110) and Italy (12,932) (Table 5).

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

**1st Semester 2023 compared to 1st Semester 2022**

Compared to first semester of 2022, tourist arrivals from France, our top tourist generating country, increased by 53,879 from 93,446 to 147,325. Increases in tourist arrivals were also observed in the other main markets as follows:

Reunion Island (+45,950), Germany (+14,251), India (+12,463), United Kingdom (+7,707), Italy (+6,078), Switzerland (+4,980) and Republic of South Africa (+3,886).

* 1. **Tourist arrivals by age**

During the period under review, the number of tourists aged 60 years and above was 99,709 representing 16.7% of tourist arrivals. Among those who arrived by sea, the proportion was much higher at 60.4% (Table 6b).

**Figure 3 - Tourist arrivals by age group, 1st Semester 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 semester of 2023, tourists from United Kingdom (60.2%), France (58.3%) and Germany (49.7%) 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 85.7%, 50.8% and 31.4% respectively.

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

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

Maldives (from 813,271 to 929,607), Sri Lanka (from 411,377 to 624,874), Mauritius (from 376,556 to 596,466) and Seychelles (from 156,287 to 172,045).

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

**1st Semester 2022 and 1st Semester 2023**



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

* 1. **Tourist Nights**

Compared to 1st Semester 2022:

* the number of nights spent by tourists who departed during 1st Semester 2023 increased from 4,719,867 to 7,089,989; and
* the average length of stay decreased from 12.4 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 2022 indicate that employment in these establishments decreased by 0.8% to 27,626 as compared to 27,858 for March 2021 (Table 11).

* 1. **Accommodation**

1. Licensed hotels in the Island of Mauritius

As at end of June 2023, there were 108 licensed hotels of which 7 were closed due to renovation works. The total room capacity of the 101 hotels in operation was 12,426 with 28,416 bed places (Table 9).

During the 1st Semester 2023,

* the room occupancy rate of all licensed hotels in operation averaged 73%, higher compared to 51% in 1st Semester 2022; and
* the bed occupancy rate was 65%, higher compared to 45% in 1st Semester 2022 (Table 10).

1. ‘Large’ hotels in the Island of Mauritius

At the end of June 2023, there were 53 ‘large’ hotels (i.e. well-established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms) in operation. The total room capacity of these 53 ‘large’ hotels was 9,735 with 22,563 bed places. These ‘large’ hotels represent 52% of all licensed hotels in operation but comprise 78% of total room capacity and 79% of total bed places (Table 9).

During the 1st Semester 2023,

* the room occupancy rate of ‘large’ hotels was 75%, higher than the 54% registered in 1st Semester of 2022; and
* the bed occupancy rate was 68%, higher than the 47% recorded in 1st Semester of 2022 (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 (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