

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



JANUARY – JUNE 2024 TRAVEL EXPENDITURE SURVEY REPORT

October 2024



PREFACE

The National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), the Rwanda Development Board (RDB), the National Bank of Rwanda (NBR), and the Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration (DGIE) conduct the Travel Expenditure Survey (TES) twice a year, to cover two major seasons. TES data collection takes place from November to January for the low season of travel while May to July for the high season. TES results enhance the sources and methodology for compiling the Balance of Payments (BOP) and the National Accounts (NA).

TES includes expenditures by non-residents visiting Rwanda (inbound) and Rwandan residents overseas (outbound). This survey follows the recommendations of the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010 (MSITS 2010) and the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual 6th Edition (BPM6).

The methodology for estimating travel services consists of multiplying survey results (average daily expenditure and average duration of stay) by the number of Rwandan resident travellers abroad and non-resident visitors to Rwanda. The DGIE provides an aggregated total number of Rwandan resident travellers abroad and non-resident visitors to Rwanda based on daily data on international migration movements. This report contains travel estimates from the TES survey conducted from May to July 2024 and previous quarters' estimation results.

NISR would like to thank the partner institutions and funding sources for their tremendous financial, technical, and other contributions. Furthermore, we appreciate the TES Technical staff and Fieldwork Staff for their dedicated work in completing this project.



MURENZI Ivan
Director General



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Travel Expenditure Survey looks at how travellers spend their money. Goods and services acquired from Rwanda by non-Rwandan Residents during visits to Rwanda are credited, whereas goods and services acquired from other countries by Rwandan residents during visits to those countries are debited.

The survey gathered information from a varied sample of Rwandan and foreign visitors, analyzing expenditures in major categories: accommodation, food and beverages, transportation, shopping, entertainment, sightseeing, and other spending excluding international transportation costs.

Travel covers stays of any length provided that there is no change of residence. The residence of households is determined according to the center of predominant economic interest of its members, which is determined by the economic territory in which those members maintain a dwelling or a succession of dwellings that are treated and used by members of the household as their principal dwelling. It is sufficient to be present for one year or more in a territory or to intend to be so to qualify as having a principal dwelling there. (MSITS 2010 and BPM6).

As a result, this report primarily covers the findings from the travel expenditure survey, which were utilized to estimate travel services for 2024Q1 and 2024Q2. The survey summary results are as follows:

On average, non-Rwandan Residents traveling by land stayed in Rwanda for education (115 days) as the most purpose with the largest number of stays from Europe (350 days). Similarly, for air, non-residents mostly stayed on average in Rwanda for education (24 days) with the largest number of stays from EAC (39 days).

Alternatively, on average, Rwandan residents traveling by land stayed abroad for education (40 days) as the most purpose with the largest number of stays in EAC (40 days). Similarly, for air, where Rwandans mostly stayed abroad for education (311 days) with the largest number of stays in North America (431 days).

In 2024Q2, Rwanda exported travel services worth an estimated 144.4 million USD. According to this estimate, the average daily expenditure per resident by air during their stay abroad is on holiday (185 million USD) with the most purpose and the highest spending in the Rest of Africa (219 million USD). However, the average daily expenditure by land per resident during their stay abroad is VFR (21 million USD) and the largest spending in the EAC (21 million USD).

On average in 2024Q2, Rwanda imported travel services estimated at 83.1 million USD. In this estimate, the average daily expenditure per non-resident by air during their stay in Rwanda is on holiday (173 million USD) as the most purpose and the largest spending from North America (208 million USD). Similarly, the average daily expenditure by land per non-resident during their stay in Rwanda is on holiday (66 million USD), and the largest spending in North America (139 million USD).

The export value of travel services in 2024Q1 was 123.3 million USD and the import value of travel services in 2024Q1 was 85.7 million USD.

The results from this survey will cater to a wide range of tourist interests and improve travel experiences. Also, they feed the National Accounts and Balance of payments statistics according to the SNA 2008 and BPM6 respectively. In conclusion, policymakers, businesses, and other data users can rely on this report's results to make evidence-based decisions.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BOP	: Balance of Payments
BPM6	: Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual 6 th Edition
DGIE	: Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration
DRC	: Democratic Republic of Congo
EAC	: East African Community
EU	: European Union
FRW	: Franc Rwandais
GDP	: Gross Domestic Product
ID	: Identity card
ITRS	: International Transactions Reporting System
KIA	: Kigali International Airport
MCS	: Movement Control System
MSITS 2010	: Manual of Statistics of International Trade in Services, 2010
NBR	: National Bank of Rwanda
NISR	: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda
RDB	: Rwanda Development Board
2008 SNA	: System of National Accounts, 2008
TES	: Travel Expenditure Survey
USD	: United States Dollar
VFR	: Visiting Friends and Relatives

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CHAPTER 1. METHODOLOGY

1.1. Introduction

To improve the coverage and methodology for the compilation of the Balance of Payments (BOP) and the National Accounts (NA), the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), in partnership with the National Bank of Rwanda (NBR), the Rwanda Development Board (RDB), and the Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration (DGIE), conduct the bi-annual Travel Expenditure Survey (TES). The data collection takes place from November to January for the low season and from May to July for the high season.

The approach used for estimating travel services involves multiplying the quarterly data on total Rwandan residents returning from abroad and non-resident visitors departing from Rwanda, provided by DGIE, by the survey results, which include averages of daily expenditure and length of stay of Rwandan residents and non-residents respectively.

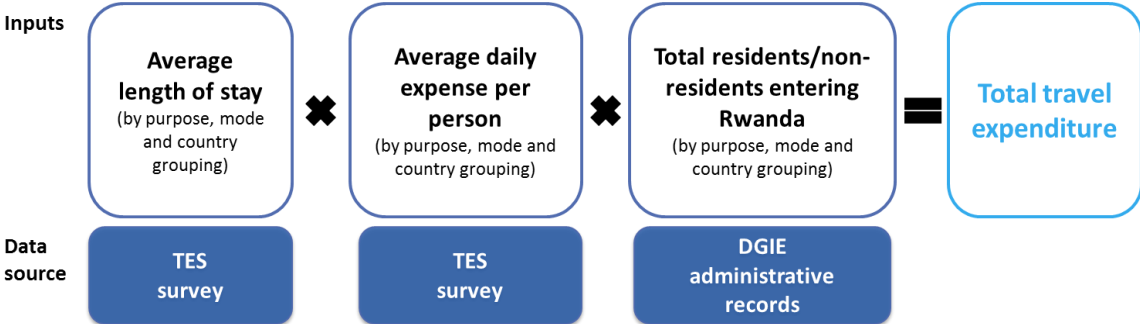
This report provides the travel estimates for the first and second quarters of 2024, from the survey conducted from November 2023 to January 2024 for 2024Q1 and May – July 2024 for 2024Q2 as well as the estimates of the previous periods. In addition, this report highlights the methodology used to collect data for Rwanda's TES. A series of key concepts and definitions used in the TES is included in the Appendix.

This report comprises four chapters, outlined as follows: Chapter 1 laying the methodology for estimating travel expenditures, Chapter 2 shows survey results, Chapter 3 presents official figures for arrivals and departures of migration flows in Rwanda, and Chapter 4 presents grossed-up results of total travel services (credits and debits) estimates from the first and second quarters of 2024.

The method of estimating travel services through surveys follows the conventional model in the steps below. The approach requires two main sources of information:

1. The TES estimate the average daily expenditure per person and the average length of stay for non-resident and resident travellers.
2. DGIE records total travellers by land and air on each border, by nationality, by purpose of travel and by region or country of origin and country visited.

Steps in the estimation of travel expenditure



Input data is aggregated by purpose of visit, mode of travel, and country groupings.

- i. Purpose of visit: Presents the primary motivations behind the traveller's journey. It includes business, holiday, health, education, Visit Friend and Relative (VFR), transit or any other reason. It is important to note that:
 - a. Business group combines, Conference, Official Mission, Trade, or other business purposes.
 - b. Holiday includes relaxation, leisure, and other holiday purposes.
- ii. Mode of travel: Refers to border point type (airport or land border).
- iii. Country grouping: Refers to the country where the traveller resides. Countries are grouped by regions such as Asia, East African Community/EAC, Europe, the Rest of Africa, North America and the Rest of the world.

1.2. Sample size determination and selection

The methodology employed for TES follows a two-stage process. In the first stage, the selection of borders is purposive, informed by data on border flows provided by DGIE¹. In total, 10 borders were selected namely Kigali International Airport, Rusumo, Kagitumba, Gatuna, Cyanika, Rusizi I, Rusizi II, Bugarama, La Corniche and Poids Lourds. In the second stage, travellers at each border are screened based on their residence.

The screening of passengers is done to ensure only targeted travellers are interviewed: non-resident visitors to Rwanda exiting the country (travel credit) and Rwandan residents who travelled abroad entering Rwanda (travel debit).

Data collection is conducted at the end of the trip when travellers have a complete picture of what they have spent on goods and services acquired on their visit. For *non-residents*, data collection is performed at the exit point when they leave Rwanda. For *residents*, this is at the entry point when residents are returning from their trip abroad. TES Fieldwork Staff conduct as many interviews as possible with eligible travellers. The interviews are administered face-to-face voluntarily using CAPI.

Determining the sample size for returning residents and outgoing nonresidents involves considering factors like precision level, confidence level, and population size. Purposive sampling lacks a specific formula, relying instead on estimation and practical considerations. One common approach is using a percentage of the population size, but it varies based on research objectives, resources, and population variability.

Purposive sampling is used to select respondents that are most likely to yield appropriate and useful information (Kelly, 2010: 317) and is a way of identifying and choosing cases that will use limited research resources effectively (Palinkas et al., 2015). It moves away from random sampling, ensuring specific cases are included in the sample, guided by the assumption that certain individuals may offer distinct and valuable perspectives on the research topic (Mason, 2002;

¹ The selection of borders was done based on DGIE data by selecting those borders with high volume of travellers.

A commonly used percentage for sample size in purposive sampling might be around 5% to 10% of the population size.

For TES, a sample size of 5% of the population was chosen:

1. Sample size for returning residents in a given three-month period of data collection:
 - Population size of returning residents = 600,000
 - Sample size = 5% of 600,000 = $0.05 * 600,000 = 30,000$
2. Sample size for outgoing non-residents in a given three-month period of data collection:
 - Population size of outgoing nonresidents = 500,000
 - Sample size = 5% of 500,000 = $0.05 * 500,000 = 25,000$

By choosing a sample size of 5% of the population, the sample size for returning residents would be approximately 30,000 and around 25,000 for non-residents.

However, the sample size can be adjusted based on the specific study requirements, desired precision level, and available resources. For the Travel Expenditure Survey (TES), seasonality considerations are addressed, distinguishing between high travel seasons from June to September and low travel seasons from October to May.

1.3. Classification used for travel services component

The Travel Services component in the Balance of Payments Manual Sixth Edition (BPM6) serves as a crucial indicator of international tourism and travel-related activities. This section outlines the classifications used to compile Travel Services under the BPM6 framework.

Travel Services encompass expenditures by international travellers for goods and services acquired within an economy by persons who are not residents of that economy during their stay of less than one year for business or personal purposes. The following is the classification of transactions used:

- **Travel receipts:** These comprise expenditures by non-residents during visits to a country. This includes payments for accommodation, meals, transportation, entertainment, and other goods and services.
- **Travel payments:** Refers to expenditures by residents travelling abroad. It includes expenses incurred for similar purposes as Travel receipts but by residents travelling outside their country.

1.4. Number of respondents

Table 1 provides a summary of survey respondents by their mode of travel (air or land), and specifies whether they are residents (R) or non-residents (NR). The data were collected from May to July 2024.

Table 1: May–July 2024 TES respondents by mode of travel and residence

— Kigali International Airport (KIA)		Mode of travel	May-July 2024
— With DRC: ▪ Poids Lourds ² , Corniche ³ , Rusizi I, Rusizi II and Bugarama	Residents	Air	4,152
		Land	24,192
		Total	28,344
— With Tanzania: ▪ Rusumo	Non-Residents	Air	2,859
		Land	20,629
— With Uganda: ▪ Cyanika, Gatuna and Kagitumba	Non-Residents		23,488
		Total	

Source: May – July 2024 TES | NISR

The basic structure of all survey instruments are the same. All survey forms collect specific information from travellers following the MSITS 2010 international recommendations. This includes information such as their nationality, country of residence, main purpose of travel, length of stay, and expenditure patterns and type including categories like accommodation, food and beverage, sightseeing, etc.

The questions addressed to returning residents who may have visited multiple countries, collect data on the main country of visit. Similarly, the questionnaires administered to non-residents departing visitors collect information about their country of residence and other related information to their visit in Rwanda. Finally, the non-resident questionnaire via KIA, included questions about prepaid expenses for their trip to Rwanda.

² Poids Lourds is commonly referred to as ‘Petite Barrière’ although volume of travellers in this border is greater than at La Corniche.

³ La Corniche border post is commonly referred to as ‘Grande Barrière’

CHAPTER 2. RESULTS FROM THE TRAVEL EXPENDITURE SURVEY

This chapter provides the key findings from the Travel Expenditure Survey conducted between May and July 2024. The main outcomes of the survey are the average daily expenditure per person and the average length of stay, which are utilized in the methodology to estimate travel credit and debit (See Chapter 1).

2.1. Export of travel services

This section highlights the average length of stay and average daily expenditure per person of non-resident visitors to Rwanda.

2.1.1. Average length of stay per Non-Resident

Tables 2 and 3 summarise the average length of stay by purpose of visit and mode of travel for non-resident travellers in Rwanda.

For air travellers, table 2 illustrates the average length of stay of non-resident travellers to Rwanda by country groupings and travel purposes by air.

Table 2: Average length of stay in nights of non-resident visitors to Rwanda, Air

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	Transit	VFR
Asia	10	12		8	1	15
EAC	6	39	8	8	1	8
Europe	10	19		8	1	15
North America	10	17	10	7	1	18
Rest of Africa	8	25	25	7	1	10
Rest of the world	7			6	1	10

Source: May-July 2024 TES | NISR

For Land travellers, Table 3 shows the average length of stay of non-resident travellers to Rwanda by country groupings and travel purposes by land.

Table 3: Average length of stay of non-resident visitors to Rwanda, Land

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	Transit	VFR
Asia	8			4	1	8
EAC	2	101	8	3	1	7
Europe	12	350		7	1	10
North America	6			6	1	12
Rest of Africa	11	324		7	1	10
Rest of the world	7			3	1	4

Source: May-July 2024 TES | NISR

2.1.2. Average daily expenditure per Non-Resident

For air travellers, table 4 shows the daily average expenditure of non-resident travellers to Rwanda broken down by country groupings and travel purposes by air.

Table 4: Average daily expenditure of non-resident visitors, by air (value in USD)

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	Transit	VFR
Asia	131	66		189	57	60
EAC	116	79	37	165	77	61
Europe	144	85		151	83	112
North America	126	70	107	208	77	124
Rest of Africa	133	73	22	151	81	113
Rest of the world	166			188	60	122

Source: May-July 2024 TES | NISR

For land travellers, table 5 shows the daily average expenditure of non-resident travellers to Rwanda broken down by country groupings and travel purposes by land.

Table 5: Average daily expenditure of non-resident visitors, by land (value in USD)

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	Transit	VFR
Asia	80			89	61	44
EAC	17	15	24	43	14	11
Europe	90	11		127	86	44
North America	136			139	84	62
Rest of Africa	40	23		79	54	42
Rest of the world	153			118	43	46

Source: May-July 2024 TES | NISR

2.2. Import of travel services

This section highlights the average length of stay and average daily expenditure of Rwandan resident travellers abroad.

2.2.1. Average length of stay for Residents

Tables 6 and 7 illustrate the average length of stay of resident travellers abroad. Results are presented separately for air and land.

For air travellers, table 6 displays the average length of stay of resident travellers abroad by air broken down by destination and by travel purposes.

Table 6: Average length of stay in nights of residents on their trip abroad, by air

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	VFR
Asia	12	374	40	11	18
EAC	10	99	37	8	10
Europe	14	298	32	19	26
North America	15	431	200	27	26
Rest of Africa	16	150	23	9	17
Rest of the world	15	149		10	28

Source: May-July 2024 TES | NISR

For land travellers, table 7 displays the average length of stay of resident travellers abroad broken

down by destination and travel purposes by land.

Table 7: Average length of stay of residents on their trip abroad, by land

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	VFR
EAC	5	40	32	4	11
Rest of Africa	9	1			33

Source: May-July 2024 TES | NISR

2.2.2. Average daily expenditure per Resident.

Tables 8 and 9 present the average length of stay of resident travellers abroad by country grouping and main travel purposes. Results are presented separately for air and land.

For air travellers, table 8 displays the daily average expenditure of resident travellers abroad broken down by destination and travel purposes by air.

Table 8: Average daily expenditure per resident on their trip abroad, by air (value in USD)

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	VFR
Asia	135	39	81	197	98
EAC	99	42	77	165	82
Europe	174	40	120	207	73
North America	164	43	22	150	89
Rest of Africa	119	30	89	219	100
Rest of the world	72	25		180	96

Source: May-July 2024 TES | NISR

For land travellers, table 9 shows the daily average expenditure of resident travellers abroad broken down by destination and travel purposes by land.

Table 9: Average daily expenditure per resident abroad, by land (value in USD)

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	VFR
EAC	9	9	13	21	8
Rest of Africa	7	5			6

Source: May-July 2024 TES | NISR

CHAPTER 3. ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE MIGRATION FLOWS.

3.1. Introduction.

The Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration (DGIE), under its mandate of managing borders, records all movements of travellers entering or leaving Rwanda. These data are processed, analysed and used for grossing up the travel survey results.

3.2. Data used for estimating travel debit and credit

This sub-section presents the derived data and tables used for estimating total travel credits and debits in Chapter 4.

3.2.1. Number of Non-resident Visitors to Rwanda

The total number of travellers to Rwanda, in the second quarter of 2024, is based on total arrivals as presented in Table 10 for Air and Table 11 for Land. The tables provide detailed data categorized by the purpose of travel and the country grouping of residents.

For air travellers, table 10 below shows that, in the second quarter of 2024, the total number of non-resident travellers to Rwanda by air was 74,215.

Table 10. Non-resident visitors to Rwanda by Air⁴ for 2024Q2

Country grouping	Business	Education	Gorilla	Health	Holiday	Visit	Transit
Asia	2,630	50	293	1	1,007	2,083	607
EAC	4,393	238	208	86	1,304	6,126	4,673
Europe	4,136	94	1,404	30	2,860	4,752	2,817
North America	1,808	123	6,047	18	356	3,187	682
Rest of Africa	6,957	990	322	25	2,523	5,557	4,100
Rest of the world	461	8	635		45	437	142
Total	20,385	1,503	8,909	160	8,095	22,142	13,021

Source: DGIE, 2024

For land travellers, Table 11 illustrates the total number of non-resident travellers to Rwanda by land. The total number of non-resident arrivals by land is 233,812 in the second quarter of 2024.

Table 11. Non-resident visitors to Rwanda by Land⁵ for 2024Q2

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	Visit	Transit
Asia	971	2	3	277	899	480
EAC	73,013	2,010	3,821	18,597	83,136	41,885
Europe	747	19	2	368	1,301	967
North America	204	3	4	156	827	539
Rest of Africa	894	224	14	226	965	598
Rest of the world	152	21		62	269	157
Total	75,981	2,279	3,844	19,686	87,397	44,626

⁴Air transits encompass travellers in transit who have exited the airport, it is assumed that all transit travellers make some expenditure in Rwanda, such as on taxi services, food, souvenirs, and more. It is important to highlight that land transits are subject to a distinct treatment.

⁵ For estimating total land credits in Chapter 4, land transits are considered except for DRC residents, who transit between borders without spending any expenses in Rwanda, except a few of them. However, after analysing migration raw data, only around 20 percent of DRC residents transiting, spend money in Rwanda.

3.2.2. Number of Rwandan Resident Travellers Abroad

For air travellers, Table 12 shows that, in the second quarter of 2024, the total number of returning Rwandan residents from abroad by air was 40,793.

Table 12: Rwandan Resident Travellers by Air for 2024Q2

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	Visit
Asia	535	7	2	436	871
EAC	14,215	1,340	457	3,214	12,210
Europe	706	4	2	839	1,618
North America	335	17	2	411	841
Rest of Africa	683	33	2	506	1,343
Rest of the world	36	-	-	47	82
Total	16,509	1,401	465	5,453	16,964

Source: DGIE, 2024

For land travellers, Table 13 shows that, in the second quarter of 2024, the total number of resident travellers returning from abroad by land was 385,844.

Table 13: Rwandan Resident travellers by land for 2024Q2

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	Visit
Asia	309	-	46	7	196
EAC	208,704	2,673	543	2,891	144,582
Europe	259	-	53	7	186
North America	30	1	9	2	96
Rest of Africa	13,272	274	44	58	11,538
Rest of the world	17	-	7	-	40
Total	222,589	2,948	702	2,965	156,639

Source: DGIE, 2024

CHAPTER 4. TRAVEL CREDITS AND DEBITS

This chapter provides quarterly estimates of total travel expenditures for 2024Q1 and 2024Q2. In 2024Q1 and 2024Q2, the total travel credit was 123.31 million USD and 144.4 million USD, while the total debit stood at 85.7 million USD and 83.1 million USD respectively. In 2024 Q2, travellers using air transport mode generated 84.4 percent of credit transactions compared to 68 percent for debit transactions. Regarding the purpose of travel, business travellers contributed 18.8 percent, holiday travellers contributed 49.9 percent while visitors of friends and relatives contributed 24.2 percent of travel credit. On the other hand, business travellers contributed 34.1 percent, holiday travellers contributed 14.1 percent while visitors of friends and relatives contributed 41.3 percent of travel debits.

4.1. Quarterly travel credits, debits and balances

4.1.1. Credits

Table 14 and Table 15 contain the findings of travel credit and debit by purpose for 2024.

Table 14. The total travel credit by the purpose of travel in million USD

Purpose	2023Q1	2023Q2	2023Q3	2023Q4	2024Q1	2024Q2
Business	29.2	33.4	38.9	34.4	19.6	27.1
Education	6.1	9.7	17.8	10.8	9.1	7.6
Health	0.5	0.7	1.4	0.7	0.8	0.8
Holiday	39.0	49.5	84.3	63.2	58.2	72.0
VFR	38.6	24.9	31.7	36.3	34.0	34.9
Transit	1.3	3.2	4.6	3.6	1.6	1.9
Total	114.7	121.5	178.7	149.0	123.3	144.4

Source: NISR, TES 2024

Table 15. Total travel debit by the purpose of travel in million USD

Purpose	2023Q1	2023Q2	2023Q3	2023Q4	2024Q1	2024Q2
Business	42.5	46.7	56.4	47.3	30.1	28.4
Education	2.1	1.2	3.7	16.8	20.0	7.1
Health	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.5
Holiday	8.3	10.8	15.7	20.5	10.9	11.7
VFR	14.5	17.8	23.0	22.5	23.2	34.4
Total	68.5	77.7	100.2	108.8	85.7	83.1

Source: NISR, TES 2024

For Credit by air, tables 16 and 17 shows the total expenditures of non-resident travellers to Rwanda by air in the second quarter of 2024 by country groupings and purpose of travel respectively.

Table 16: Total credit of air passengers by country groupings in million USD

Country grouping	2023Q1	2023Q2	2023Q3	2023Q4	2024Q1	2024Q2
Asia	7.4	6.9	9.6	7.6	7.1	8.9
EAC	8.4	10.2	13.9	13.3	10.1	10.2
Europe	27.9	18.5	26.4	25.3	26.3	27.2
North America	28.5	30.7	53.3	34.1	34.0	50.1
Rest of Africa	19.9	21.6	31.8	28.2	22.8	20.3
Rest of the world	3.3	3.2	5.8	4.4	4.1	5.3
Total	95.5	91.1	140.8	113.0	104.4	121.9

Source: NISR, TES 2024

Table 17: Total credit of air passengers by the purpose of travel in million USD

Purpose	2023Q1	2023Q2	2023Q3	2023Q4	2024Q1	2024Q2
Business	23.3	21.4	25.8	21.5	14.0	22.2
Education	5.1	7.9	15.2	8.9	7.8	2.9
Health	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1
Holiday	37.1	48.3	80.9	58.7	56.6	68.9
VFR	29.5	12.5	17.2	23.1	25.0	26.8
Transit	0.4	0.8	1.2	0.8	0.8	1.1
Total	95.5	91.1	140.8	113.0	104.4	121.9

Source: NISR, TES 2024

For Credit by land, Tables 18 and 19 show the total expenditures by non-resident travellers to Rwanda in the second quarter of 2024 by country groupings and purpose of travel respectively.

Table 18. Total credit of land passengers by country grouping in million USD

Country grouping	2023Q1	2023Q2	2023Q3	2023Q4	2024Q1	2024Q2
Asia	0.3	0.6	1.7	4.3	0.3	1.0
EAC	16.0	28.3	30.4	27.5	15.8	15.7
Europe	1.7	0.6	2.0	2.3	1.3	1.9
North America	0.9	0.4	0.9	0.8	1.0	1.0
Rest of Africa	0.1	0.2	2.0	0.6	0.2	2.6
Rest of the world	0.2	0.3	0.9	0.5	0.3	0.2
Total	19.2	30.4	37.9	36.0	18.9	22.5

Source: NISR, TES 2024

Table 19. Total credit of land passengers by the purpose of travel in million USD

Purpose	2023Q1	2023Q2	2023Q3	2023Q4	2024Q1	2024Q2
Business	5.9	12.0	13.0	12.9	5.6	4.9
Education	1.0	1.8	2.6	1.9	1.3	4.8
Health	0.4	0.5	1.1	0.6	0.7	0.7
Holiday	2.0	1.2	3.4	4.5	1.6	3.1
Visit	9.1	12.5	14.5	13.3	8.9	8.2
Transit	0.9	2.4	3.3	2.8	0.9	0.9
Total	19.2	30.4	37.9	36.0	18.9	22.5

Source: NISR, TES 2024

4.2.2. Debits

For debit by air, tables 20 and 21 illustrate the total amount spent abroad by Rwandan residents

through air by country groupings and the purpose of travel respectively.

Table 20. Total debit for air passengers by country grouping in million USD

Country grouping	2023Q1	2023Q2	2023Q3	2023Q4	2024Q1	2024Q2
Asia	1.5	1.5	2	3.3	3.7	3.5
EAC	20.5	26.3	33	39.6	37.9	34.9
Europe	10.9	11.2	15.1	8.8	10.0	8.2
North America	5.2	4.8	7.6	3.3	4.5	4.8
Rest of Africa	1.6	1.9	2.7	3.1	3.8	4.7
Rest of the world	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.3
Total	39.9	46.0	60.6	58.3	60.3	56.5

Source: NISR, TES 2024

Table 21. Total debit for air passengers by the purpose of travel in million USD

Purpose	2023Q1	2023Q2	2023Q3	2023Q4	2024Q1	2024Q2
Business	18.0	20.1	22.8	18.7	18.5	18.2
Education	1.5	1.1	3.6	13.1	15.1	6.1
Health	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.3
Holiday	7.1	9.5	14.9	14.2	9.6	11.5
VFR	12.3	14.2	18.0	11.2	16.0	19.4
Total	39.9	46.0	60.6	58.3	60.3	56.5

Source: NISR, TES 2024

For debit by land, table 22 and table 23 illustrate the total amount spent abroad by returning Rwandan residents through land by country groupings and purpose of travel. More survey findings are presented in Appendix E (TES 2024 Survey Results).

Table 22. Total debits for land passengers by region of travel in million USD

Country grouping	2023Q1	2023Q2	2023Q3	2023Q4	2024Q1	2024Q2
Asia	-	-	-	1.1	1.5	-
EAC	28.6	31.6	39.5	49.1	17.6	23.5
Europe	-	-	-	0.0	0.0	-
North America	-	-	-	-	0.0	-
Rest of Africa	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	6.2	3.1
Rest of the world	-	-	-	0.0	0.0	-
Total	28.7	31.6	39.6	50.5	25.3	26.6

Source: NISR, TES 2024

Table 23. Total debit for land passengers by the purpose of travel in million USD

Purpose	2023Q1	2023Q2	2023Q3	2023Q4	2024Q1	2024Q2
Business	24.5	26.6	33.5	28.6	11.6	10.2
Education	0.6	0.1	0.1	3.8	4.9	1.0
Health	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.2
Holiday	1.3	1.2	0.8	6.3	1.3	0.2
VFR	2.2	3.6	5.0	11.3	7.2	15.0
Total	28.7	31.6	39.6	50.5	25.3	26.6

Source: NISR, TES 2024

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APPENDIXES

APPENDIX A: Key concepts and definitions in TES

- 1. Number of visits and flow:** The **number of visits** relate to the number of **completed visits** (i.e. the data collected relate to the number of visits, not the number of visitors), counted upon arrival as Rwandan residents return from their stay abroad and upon exit as non-residents leave Rwanda. This is to ensure interviews take place at the end of the traveller's visit when factual information on expenditure and duration is available. Consequently, the travel expenditure survey does not include Rwandan residents departing from Rwanda neither non-residents visitors arriving in Rwanda.
- 2. Length of stay:** In the case of Rwandan residents, length of stay covers the time spent outside Rwanda; this is the number of nights Rwandan residents spent abroad. For non-residents, length of stay covers the time spent in Rwanda; it refers to the number of nights spent within Rwanda.
- 3. Non-residents visitors:** A **non-resident visitor** is a person who is a permanent resident in another country other than Rwanda. Includes foreigners who live abroad and Rwandan passport holders (or nationals) who have been living and/or working abroad (diaspora).⁶ Country of residence is therefore **used to derive country grouping in the non-resident samples**.
- 4. Rwandan residents:** Rwandan resident is a person who is a permanent resident⁷ of Rwanda. Includes Rwandan citizens and foreign passport holders who live in Rwanda. Rwandan nationals abroad travelling for special purposes such as education, health, diplomatic missions, and military operations/ missions are considered Rwandan residents.
- 5. Country visited:** A country visited by a traveller that is different from his resident country. When a resident of Rwanda has visited more than one country, the entire visit, expenditure and stay is allocated to the country **where the resident spent most time of his/her travel**. Although information is collected at the country level, estimates in this report are aggregated at the regional level. **The country visited is used to derive country grouping categories in the resident samples**.
- 6. Purpose of travel:** Purpose of travel is the main reason why a person is travelling. The main purposes of travel are Business (including missions and conferences), holidays, visiting friends and relatives, education, and health. Transits are also considered as a purpose of travel exclusively for non-residents transiting through Rwanda. **Miscellaneous/other purposes** such as attending sporting or religious events are allocated to one of the five main categories mentioned above.
- 7. Average daily expenditure per person:** This is defined as the sum of all expenses divided by the number of nights and number of travellers included in the calculation of the expenses. This

⁶ With the exception of students and patients who are considered as residing in their home country.

⁷ To be considered as permanent resident of a country, any of the following conditions should be met: (1) the person has lived in a country for more than 12 months; or intends to stay in a country for more than 12 months, even if the person has not lived there for that full length; or intends to have permanent home in a country.

is calculated for a specific country grouping and with a specific purpose of travel. Expenditure figures reported on foreign currencies are converted to dollars **using the average foreign exchange rate** of the data collection period. Data in this report is shown in U.S. dollars.

- a. **Rwandan resident’s expenditure data:** For Rwandan residents, the survey collected **travel expenditure** of Rwandan residents travelling abroad for six broad categories: accommodation; food and beverages; entertainment; sightseeing excursions, souvenirs and gifts; transportation within the countries travelled to; and other expenses (excluding international transportation costs for air travellers). These include amounts paid for the trip by other Rwandan residents (such as an employer) and any amount spent for the trip prior to the departure, excluding the cost of international flights.
 - b. **Non-resident expenditure data:** For non-resident visitors, the survey collected **travel expenditure** of non-residents visitors in Rwanda for six broad categories: accommodation; food and beverages; entertainment; sightseeing excursions, souvenirs and gifts; transportation within the countries travelled to; and other expenses (excluding international transportation costs for air travellers). These include amounts paid for the trip by other non-residents (such as an employer), excluding the cost of international flights. In addition, travel expenditure paid before arriving (e.g. such as part of a package or independently arranged) is also collected and combined with additional the expenditures made while being in Rwanda to have the total expenditure.
- 8. Average length of stay:** This is defined as the average number of nights spent by a traveller from a specific country grouping and with a specific purpose of travel.
- 9. Country groupings (geographical areas):**
- **Asia:** All countries in Asia plus the Middle East countries.
 - **EAC:** the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republics of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, and Tanzania.
 - **Rest of Africa:** All non-EAC countries.
 - **Europe:** All European countries.
 - **North America:** Includes United States and Canada.
 - **Rest of World:** Central and South America, Australia and New Zealand, and other Oceania countries and Pacific Islands.
- 10. Current-dollar estimates** are valued in the prices of the period when the transactions occurred, that is, at “market value.” Also referred to as “nominal estimates” or as “current-price estimates.”
- 11. Exclusions**
- a. Expenditure on goods for sale since are declared in customs and accounted in merchandise goods.
 - b. Expenditure on international transportation, including in international passenger services survey.
 - c. Travellers interviewed reported no expenses.
 - d. Travellers interviewed who report stays of more than 90 days (apart from education and health purposes) were excluded from the analysis on this report.

- e. Day-visits (that is trips that do not involve overnight stay) are included in the survey, but were recoded as 1 night during fieldwork.
- f. Border community travellers' are not included in the survey.

APPENDIX B: Data cleaning procedure

The data cleaning process follows comparable approaches in each of the survey rounds.:

1. The data collection is done using the CAPI application which contributes to ensuring response consistency.
2. The variable ID is used to check for duplicates, and any duplicate records or IDs that are found are subsequently cleaned.
3. Outliers are checked and cleaned accordingly. Checks are done on:
 - 3.1. Number of nights
 - 3.2. International exits via land borders
 - 3.3. Number of travellers
 - 3.4. Expenditure per traveller per night, by type of expenditure
4. Review all expenditures on local transportation for air travellers.
5. Review the classification of purpose of travel focussing on 'other purpose of travel'.
6. Exclusions from analysis:
 - 6.1. Cases reporting no expenses in either of the different types of expenditure categories;
 - 6.2. Records without the purpose of travel;
 - 6.3. Stays exceeding 90 days (except for education and health reasons) are excluded from the analysis, as these travellers are regarded as residents of the visited country.
7. **Winsorization/outlier treatment:** Winsorization is a technique that replaces extreme data values with less extreme values. The procedure followed is outlined here:
 - 7.1. By travel mode (air and land) and for each type of expenditure category (accommodation, food and beverages, entertainment, sightseeing, transportation within the country, and other expenses) and by major regions, a new variable is created which transforms the original variables into their log.⁸
 - 7.2. For each transformed variable (and by air and land separately), values above 3 standard deviations on each tail of the distribution are trimmed.
 - 7.3. Then for each of these variables, the value on the second standard deviation (critical value of 1.96 for a 95 percent confidence interval, 2.5 percent in each tail) is estimated and replaces more extreme values with the value estimated at the threshold. This is done not only by air and land but also by the following regions of destination/residence: for land travellers EAC and non-EAC groupings are considered; for air travellers, EAC, Rest of Africa, Europe / America, and Rest of the world groupings are considered.

Once this is done, the exponential of each of the variables (to bring the data back to normal) is taken and the original zeros that were excluded from this technique, which are considered

⁸ The distributions of expenses are positively skewed with a couple of outliers at the top and bunching of zero expenses at the bottom. This is done to have a more normal distribution which do not takes into account the zeros at the bottom.

genuine, are included.

APPENDIX C: Travel disclaimer

1. Quarterly figures presented in this publication are final estimates but subject to revision in light of additional passenger data obtained. DGIE estimates are revised in line with the DGIE revisions policy.
2. Planned revisions usually arise from either the receipt of revised passenger traffic data or the correction of errors to existing data identified later in the annual processing cycle. Those of significant magnitude will be highlighted and explained.
3. Revisions to the published DGIE estimates can be expected in the report of the annual Travel Expenditure Survey.

APPENDIX D: Staff involved in May - July 2024 TES

Members of the Technical Team for TES

Members of NISR	Members of other institutions
MWIZERWA Jean Claude	KAMALI Wilson - NBR
SIBOMANA Oscar	NGARAMBE BAHATI Emmanuel - NBR
NZASINGIZIMANA Tharcisse	MUGENZI Célestin - NBR
NSHIMIYIMANA Emile	Dr. UWIMANA Annie - NBR
KATO Denis	SEBERA Patrice - NBR
HITIMANA Dieudonné	KAGABO RUGWIZA Toussaint - NBR
NSENGIYUMVA Thomas	MUKANTAGORAMA Rose - NBR
MPAYIMANA Fabien	MUVUNYI Yves - NBR
	MBABAZI Jovia - NBR
	RWAYITARE TEBUKA Tricart - NBR
	RUDASINGWA Joel - RDB
	MUVUNYI Gloria - RDB
	MUTUYEYEZU Alexandre - RDB
	NGARAMBE IJABO Serge - DGIE

Survey management and Fieldwork Coordination

MWIZERWA Jean Claude
NZASINGIZIMANA Tharcisse

Trainers of Enumerators

MPAYIMANA Fabien
NSHIMIYIMANA Emile
KATO Denis
RUDASINGWA Joel
MUVUNYI Yves
Dr. UWIMANA Annie

Survey Logistics

HITIMANA Dieudonné
NSENGIYUMVA Thomas
MUTUYEYEZU Alexandre
Dr. UWIMANA Annie

Data Processing

NDAYISHIMIYE Jean Bosco

Data Analysis

NZASINGIZIMANA Tharcisse
NSENGIYUMVA Thomas
RUDASINGWA Joel

Report Writing

KATO Denis
Dr. UWIMANA Annie
MUVUNYI Gloria
HITIMANA Dieudonné
IJABO NGARAMBE Serge
MBABAZI Jovia
MUTUYEYEU Alexandre
NSENGIYUMVA Thomas
NZASINGIZIMANA Tharcisse
RUDASINGWA Joel
RWAYITARE TEBUKA Tricart

Report Review

NGARAMBE BAHATI Emmanuel
MWIZERWA Jean Claude
SIBOMANA Oscar
NZASINGIZIMANA Tharcisse
Dr. UWIMANA Annie
