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STATISTICS OF RWANDA

2023 TRAVEL EXPENDITURE SURVEY REPORT

March 2024

Rwanda Directorate General
Of Immigration and Emigration

BNR

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DEVELOPMENT BOARD

PREFACE

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

The survey includes expenditures by non-residents visiting Rwanda (inbound) and Rwandan residents overseas (outbound). This survey is conducted following 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 current methodology to estimate travel services consists of using survey results (average daily expenditure and average length of stay) multiplied by the number of Rwandan resident travellers abroad and non-resident visitors to Rwanda. The aggregated total number of Rwandan resident travellers abroad and non-resident visitors to Rwanda are provided by the DGIE from the data collected on daily basis in its routine activies. This report presents the travel estimates from the TES survey conducted from November 2023 to January 2024, used to estimate travel statistics for the October - December 2023 and January – March 2024 periods; as well as estimates of the previous periods.

NISR would like to appreciate the incredible contribution from the partner institutions named above, as well as different funding sources, in terms of financial, technical and other contributions. We would like also to acknowledge the effort and commitment made by the TES Technical Staff and enumerators to fulfil this task.

MURANGWA Yusuf
Director General
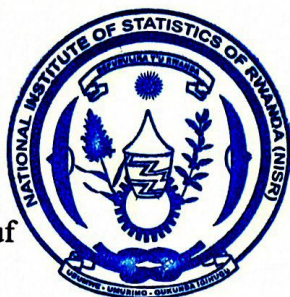
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Travel services cover expenditures on goods and services acquired by travellers during their stays to an economy other than their country of residence. Two flows are therefore considered for the compilation of export and import of travel services for the Balance of Payments:

1. Non-resident visitors to Rwanda (export/travel credit)
2. Rwandan residents travelling abroad (import/travel debit)

This publication presents mainly the estimates of travel services for 2023Q4 as well as the estimates of the whole year 2023. Travel services comprise of expenditure of non-residents in Rwanda (Credit) and expenditure of Rwandan residents abroad (Debit).

Total credits and debits are estimated using inputs from the survey multiplied by the number of non-resident visitors to Rwanda and Rwandan resident travellers abroad, respectively. The following are the key survey results:

- Export value of travel services in 2023Q4 was 149.0 million USD;
- Import value of travel services in 2023Q4 was 108.8 million USD;
- Export value of travel services in 2023 was 563.9 million USD;
- Import value of travel services in 2023 was 355.2 million USD.

TABLE OF CONTENT

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BOP	: Balance of Payments
BPM6	: Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual 6th 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
TES	: Travel Expenditure Survey
USD	: United States Dollar
VFR	: Visiting Friends and Relatives

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIFURES

CHAPTER 1. METHODOLOGY

1.1.   Introduction

In order 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 envolves multiplying the quarterly data on Rwandan residents returning from abroad and non-resident visitors departing from Rwanda, provided by DGIE, by the survey results, which includes average daily expenditure and length of stay.

This report provides the travel estimates of the fourth quarter of 2023, from the survey conducted during the period of November 2023 to January 2024 and 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 summarizes the methodology for estimating travel expenditures, Chapter 2 shows survey results for the fourth quarter of 2023, 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 quarter of 2023 to the fourth quarter of 2023.

The method of estimating travel services through surveys follows the conventional model depicted in the figure below. The approach requires two main sources of information:
1. The TES which provide estimates for average daily expenditure per person and average length of stay for both non-resident and resident travelers.
2. DGIE which records total travellers for land and air on each borders, by nationality, by purpose of travel and by region or country of origin and country visited.

Figure 1. Estimation of travel expenditure
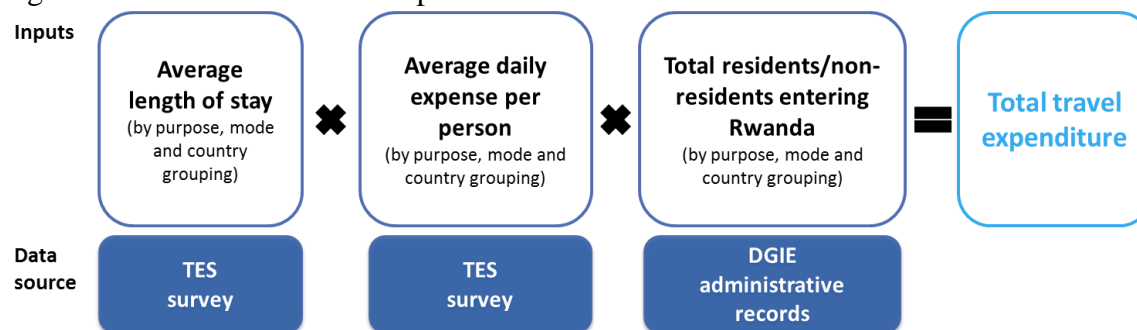
Input data is divided down by purpose of visit, mode of travel, and country groupings.

i. **Purpose of visit** presents the primary motivations behind the traveler'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, sight seeing and others holidays purposes.

ii. **Mode of travel** refers to border point type (airport or land border).

iii. **Country grouping** refers to country of residence for traveller. This report has six regions such as Asia, East African Community/EAC, Europe, Rest of Africa, North America and 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 DGIE[1]. In total, 11 borders were selected namely Kigali International Airport, Rusumo, Kagitumba, Gatuna, Cyanika, Rusizi I, Rusizi II, Akanyaru Haut, Nemba, 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 takes place at the end of the trip, when travellers have a complete picture of what they have spent on made of goods and services acquired on their visit. For *non-residents*, data collection takes place at the exit point when they are leaving Rwanda. For *residents*, this is at the entry point when residents are returning from their trip abroad. TES enumerators conduct as many interviews as possible to eligible travellers. The interviews are administered face-to-face on a voluntary basis using CAPI.

To determine 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 this can vary 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 selecting 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; Robinson, 2014; Trost, 1986).

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[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 percent 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 nonresidents 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

So, based on choosing a sample size of 5% of the population size, the sample size for returning residents would be approximately 30,000, and around 25,000for outgoing nonresidents.

However, it's crucial to adjust this percentage 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 travelers 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 traveling abroad. It includes expenses incurred for similar purposes as Travel Receipts, but by residents traveling outside their country.

1.4. Number of respondents

Table 1 provides a summary of survey respondents, categorized by their mode of travel (air or land), and specifies whether they are residents (R) or non-residents (NR). The data were collected between November 2023 and January 2024.

Table 1: November 2023 to January 2024 TES respondents by mode of travel and residence

− Kigali International Airport (KIA) − With Burundi: ▪ Akanyaru Haut & Nemba − With DRC: ▪ Poids Lourds[2], Corniche[3], Rusizi I & Rusizi II − With Tanzania: ▪ Rusumo − With Uganda: ▪ Cyanika, Gatuna & Kagitumba	Residents	Mode of travel	Data
		Air	4,779
		Land	34,299
		Total	39,078
	Non-Residents	Air	4,698
		Land	26,774
		Total	31,472

Source: TES Nov 2023 – Jan 2024 | 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.

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[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 November 2023 and January 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

Tables 2 and 3 summarize 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 of non-resident visitors to Rwanda, Air

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	Transit	VFR
Asia	11	11	45	9	1	12
EAC	6	70	7	7	1	5
Europe	10	58	19	11	1	13
North America	9	44	10	9	1	13
Rest of Africa	7	188	0	9	1	15
Rest of the world	8	42	0	7	1	15
Average Nov 23 – Jan 24	15	106	17	10	1	19

Source: TES Nov 2023 – Jan 2024 | NISR

For Land travellers, table 3 displays 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	38	0	4	7	1	5
EAC	4	50	15	5	1	9
Europe	13	161	0	10	1	5
North America	9	200	390	9	2	7
Rest of Africa	2	240	2	7	1	5
Rest of the world	4	148	27	9	1	12
Average Nov 23 – Jan 24	4	79	15	6	1	9

Source: TES Nov 2023 – Jan 2024 | NISR

2.1.2. Average daily expenditure per person

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	113	57	42	123	56	89
EAC	103	63	74	145	74	96
Europe	106	56	115	143	80	91
North America	140	63	69	190	75	111
Rest of Africa	99	47		181	58	85
Rest of the world	93	39	-	215	74	86
Average Nov 23 – Jan 24	108	54	90	159	70	95

Source: TES Nov 2023 – Jan 2024 | NISR

For land travellers, table 5 shows 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	98	-	22	88	77	89
EAC	23	15	31	47	20	13
Europe	62	13	-	91	91	66
North America	56	8	18	134	108	71
Rest of Africa	24	9	13	58	66	27
Rest of the world	145	27	1	106	87	45
Average Nov 23 – Jan 24	23	16	31	57	24	14

Source: TES Nov 2023 – Jan 2024 | 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

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 of residents on their trip abroad, by air

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	VFR
Asia	15	398	58	8	18
EAC	8	155	17	8	9
Europe	20	281	48	45	26
North America	18	294	83	19	25
Rest of Africa	17	102	90	12	16
Rest of the world	22	523	-	12	27
Average Nov 23 – Jan 24	14	272	41	14	16

Source: TES Nov 2023 – Jan 2024 | 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
Asia	32	4	-	-	60
EAC	13	105	43	11	21
Europe	8	188	15	-	5
North America	-	495	-	-	-
Rest of Africa	57	419	4	-	73
Rest of the world	132		-	14	103
Average Nov 23 – Jan 24	13	108	42	11	21

Source: TES Nov 2023 – Jan 2024 | NISR

2.2.2. Average daily expenditure per person

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

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

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

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	VFR
Asia	140	47	68	226	91
EAC	106	41	139	122	62
Europe	130	45	106	96	77
North America	167	47	136	116	86
Rest of Africa	99	57	11	131	70
Rest of the world	95	16	-	201	64
Average Nov 23 – Jan 24	120	46	116	144	70

Source: TES Nov 2023 – Jan 2024 | NISR

For land travellers, table 9 displays 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
Asia	97	66	-	-	43
EAC	11	14	16	40	11
Europe	8	41	2	-	5
North America	-	61	-	-	-
Rest of Africa	10	9	2	-	14
Rest of the world	11	-	-	50	4
Average Nov 23 – Jan 24	11	14	16	40	11

Source: TES Nov 2023 – Jan 2024 | 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 to be used for estimating total travel credits and debits in Chapter 4.

3.2.1. Non-resident visitors to Rwanda

The total number of travellers to Rwanda, in fourth quarter of 2023, is based on total arrivals as presented in table 10 for Air and table 11 for Land. These 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 fourth quarter of 2023, the total number of non-resident travellers to Rwanda by air was 78,058.

Table 10. Non-residents visitors to Rwanda by Air[4] for 2023Q4

Country grouping	Business	Education	Gorilla	Health	Holiday	Visit	Transit
Asia	2,893	20	183	4	1,010	1,556	594
EAC	6,372	209	428	47	1,872	7,215	4,994
Europe	4,427	84	1,108	14	4,266	5,267	1,376
North America	1,894	59	3,801	31	824	3,580	487
Rest of Africa	9,067	846	494	19	3,016	4,491	3,489
Rest of the world	601	1	417	-	333	516	153
Total 2023 Q4	25,254	1,219	6,431	115	11,321	22,625	11,093

Source: DGIE, 2023

For land travelers, Table 11 illustrates the total number of non-resident travellers to Rwanda by land. The total number of non-resident arrivals by land is 247,328 in the fourth quarter of 2023.

Table 11. Non-residents visitors to Rwanda by Land[5] for 2023Q4

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	Visit	Transit
Asia	983	1	-	257	928	654
EAC	101,182	2,258	1,399	15,163	92,610	84,723
Europe	1,035	25	7	521	2,390	1,195
North America	227	-	-	147	871	488
Rest of Africa	1,286	106	3	252	1,236	691
Rest of the world	186	-	-	151	441	265
Total 2023 Q4	104,899	2,390	1,409	16,491	98,476	88,016

Source: DGIE, 2023

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[4] Air transits encompass travelers in transit who have exited the airport, it is assumed that all transit travelers 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 dis.tinct 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 few of them. However, after analysing migration raw data, only around 20 percent of RDC residents transiting, spend money in Rwanda.

3.2.2. Rwandan Resident Travelers Abroad

For air travellers, Table 12 shows that, in the fourth quarter of 2023, the total number of returning Rwandan residents from abroad by air was 42,905.

Table 12: Rwandan Resident Travellers by Air for 2023Q4

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	Visit
Asia	541	2	2	474	756
EAC	16,462	1,994	452	6,744	8,949
Europe	631	7	2	1,045	1,228
North America	302	10	-	481	536
Rest of Africa	606	10	2	637	880
Rest of the world	42	-	-	48	64
Total 2023 Q4	18,584	2,023	457	9,430	12,411

Source: DGIE, 2023

For land travellers, the table 13 shows that, in the fourth quarter of 2023, the total number of resident travellers returning from abroad by land was 269,864.

Table 13: Rwandan Resident travellers by land for 2023Q4

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	Visit
Asia	227	-	-	127	140
EAC	202,773	2,595	790	14,419	47,793
Europe	156	-	-	129	117
North America	64	-	-	22	34
Rest of Africa	199	2	-	121	112
Rest of the world	26	-	-	5	12
Total 2023 Q4	203,445	2,597	790	14,823	48,208

Source: DGIE, 2023

CHAPTER 4. TRAVEL CREDITS AND DEBITS

This chapter provides annual and quarterly estimates of total travel expenditures for the year 2023.

4.1.   Annual travel credit, debit and balance

In 2023, the total travel credit was 563.9 million dollars, the total debit stood at 355.2 million dollars. Travelers using air transport mode generated 78.1 percent of credit transaction compared to 57.7 percent for debit transaction. In regards to purpose of travel, business travelers contributed 24 percent, holiday travellers contributed 42 percent while visitors of friends and relatives contributed 23 percent of travel credit. On the other hand, business travelers contributed 54 percent, holiday travellers contributed 16 percent while visitors of friends and relatives contributed 22 percent of travel debits.

Figure 2. Annual estimates in Million USD

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Travel Credit	338.1	363	381.1	392	458	120.5	149.9	400.2	563.9
Travel Debit	308.2	321.1	370.8	345.2	336.1	104.4	189.2	271.6	355.2
Balance	29.9	41.9	10.3	46.8	121.9	16.1	-39.3	128.6	208.7
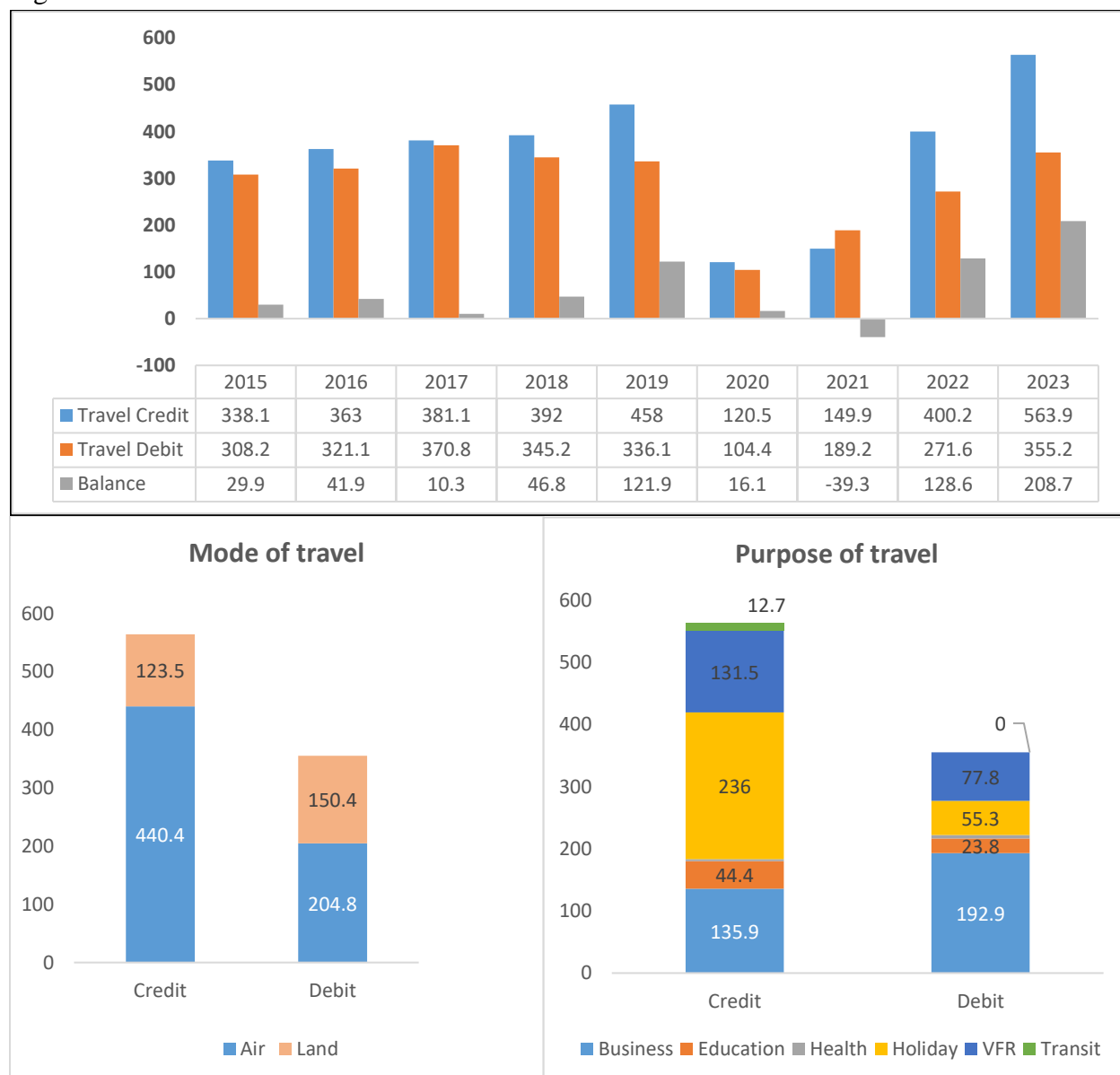
4.2. Quarterly travel credits, debits and balances

4.2.1.Credits

Table 14 and Table 15 contain the findings of travel credit and debit by purpose for 2023.

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

Purpose	2023Q1	2023Q2	2023Q3	2023Q4
Business	29.2	33.4	38.9	34.4
Education	6.1	9.7	17.8	10.8
Health	0.5	0.7	1.4	0.7
Holiday	39.0	49.5	84.3	63.2
VFR	38.6	24.9	31.7	36.3
Transit	1.3	3.2	4.6	3.6
Total	114.7	121.5	178.7	149.0

Source: NISR, TES 2023

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

Purpose	2023Q1	2023Q2	2023Q3	2023Q4
Business	42.5	46.7	56.4	47.3
Education	2.1	1.2	3.7	16.8
Health	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.6
Holiday	8.3	10.8	15.7	20.5
VFR	14.5	17.8	23.0	22.5
Total	68.5	77.7	100.2	108.8

Source: NISR, TES 2023

For Credit by air, tables 16 and 17 shows the total expenditures of non-resident travelers to Rwanda by air in the fourth quarter of 2023 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
Asia	7.4	6.9	9.6	7.6
EAC	8.4	10.2	13.9	13.3
Europe	27.9	18.5	26.4	25.3
North America	28.5	30.7	53.3	34.1
Rest of Africa	19.9	21.6	31.8	28.2
Rest of the world	3.3	3.2	5.8	4.4
Total	95.5	91.1	140.8	113.0

Source: NISR, TES 2023

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

Purpose	2023Q1	2023Q2	2023Q3	2023Q4
Business	23.3	21.4	25.8	21.5
Education	5.1	7.9	15.2	8.9
Health	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.1
Holiday	37.1	48.3	80.9	58.7
VFR	29.5	12.5	17.2	23.1
Transit	0.4	0.8	1.2	0.8
Total	95.5	91.1	140.8	113.0

Source: NISR, TES 2023

For Credit by land, Tables 22 and 23 show the total expenditures by non-resident traravellers to Rwanda in the fourth quarter of 2023 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
Asia	0.3	0.6	1.7	4.3
EAC	16.0	28.3	30.4	27.5
Europe	1.7	0.6	2.0	2.3
North America	0.9	0.4	0.9	0.8
Rest of Africa	0.1	0.2	2.0	0.6
Rest of the world	0.2	0.3	0.9	0.5
Total	19.2	30.4	37.9	36.0

Source: NISR, TES 2023

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

Purpose	2023Q1	2023Q2	2023Q3	2023Q4
Business	5.9	12.0	13.0	12.9
Education	1.0	1.8	2.6	1.9
Health	0.4	0.5	1.1	0.6
Holiday	2.0	1.2	3.4	4.5
Visit	9.1	12.5	14.5	13.3
Transit	0.9	2.4	3.3	2.8
Total	19.2	30.4	37.9	36.0

Source: NISR, TES 2023

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
Asia	1.5	1.5	2	3.3
EAC	20.5	26.3	33	39.6
Europe	10.9	11.2	15.1	8.8
North America	5.2	4.8	7.6	3.3
Rest of Africa	1.6	1.9	2.7	3.1
Rest of the world	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3
Total	39.9	46.0	60.6	58.3

Source: NISR, TES 2023

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

Purpose	2023Q1	2023Q2	2023Q3	2023Q4
Business	18.0	20.1	22.8	18.7
Education	1.5	1.1	3.6	13.1
Health	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.1
Holiday	7.1	9.5	14.9	14.2
VFR	12.3	14.2	18.0	11.2
Total	39.9	46.0	60.6	58.3

Source: NISR, TES 2023

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 2023 Survey Results).

Table 22. Total debit for land passengers by region of travel in million USD, 2023Q4

Country grouping	2023Q1	2023Q2	2023Q3	2023Q4
Asia	-	-	-	1.1
EAC	28.6	31.6	39.5	49.1
Europe	-	-	-	0.0
North America	-	-	-	-
Rest of Africa	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Rest of the world	-	-	-	0.0
Grand Total	28.7	31.6	39.6	50.5

Source: NISR, TES 2023

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

Purpose	2023Q1	2023Q2	2023Q3	2023Q4
Business	24.5	26.6	33.5	28.6
Education	0.6	0.1	0.1	3.8
Health	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5
Holiday	1.3	1.2	0.8	6.3
VFR	2.2	3.6	5.0	11.3
Total	28.7	31.6	39.6	50.5

Source: NISR, TES 2023

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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 or 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 resident[7] 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 mission, 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 shown aggregated at the regional level. **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 mission and conference), Holiday, Visiting friends and relatives, Education, 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. **Daily average expenditure per person:** It 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.

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[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.

This 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:** It 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**[8]: Rwanda, Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Burundi.
    ▪ **Rest of Africa**: All non-EAC countries, including the Democratic Republic of Congo.
    ▪ **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, included in international passenger services survey.
    c. Travellers interviewed reporting no expenses.

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[8] South Sudan is only included in DGIE official annual figures of 2016.

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 CAPI application which contributes to ensure response consistency.

2. To check for duplicates, the variable ID is used, 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 travelers 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 country, and other expenses) and by major regions, a new variable is created which transform the original variables into their log.[9]
   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.

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[9] 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.

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

APPENDIX C: Travel disclaimer

1. Annual figures shown 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 published DGIE estimates can be expected in the report of the annual Travel Expenditure Survey.

APPENDIX D: Travel Services 2015 – 2023

Table D1. Travel Service 2015 – 2023 (in million USD)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Travel Credit	338.1	363.0	381.1	392.0	458.0	120.5	149.9	400.2	563.9
Travel Debit	308.2	321.1	370.8	345.2	336.1	104.4	189.2	271.6	355.2
Travel Service Balance	29.9	41.9	10.3	46.8	121.9	16.1	-39.3	128.6	208.7

Source: NISR, TES 2023

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