Republic
of Rwanda

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
STATISTICS OF RWANDA

2024 TRAVEL EXPENDITURE
SURVEY REPORT

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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 of data collection 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 length 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 November 2024 to January 2025 and the 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 and Fieldwork Staff's dedicated work to completing this project.

MURENZI Ivan

Director General

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Travel Expenditure Survey (TES) studies how travellers spend their money. The survey collects data on non-residents' expenditures on goods and services during their stay in Rwanda which are referred to as credits or exports and payments by residents of Rwanda during their travel abroad which are debits or imports.

The survey gathered information from a varied sample of travellers, analysing expenditures in major categories: accommodation, food and beverages, transportation, shopping, entertainment, sightseeing, education-related, health-related and other spending excluding international transportation costs.

This report presents the findings from the Travel Expenditure Survey conducted between November 1st 2024 to January 30th 2025, which were utilized to estimate travel services for 2024Q4 as well as the estimates for the year 2024. The survey summary results are as follows:

In 2024Q4, earnings from travel services estimated at 126.1 million USD where the main purpose of travel is holiday accounting for 56.2 million USD. On the other hand, residents' payments abroad on travel services estimated at 91.0 million USD in 2024Q4, primarily for business purposes (36.3 million USD).

Overall, in 2024, the total export revenues for travel services are estimated at 579.5 million USD while the travel import payments are estimated at 363.8 million USD. Consequently, Rwanda recorded a net surplus of 215.6 million USD from travel services.

The results from this survey will help in improving the National Accounts and Balance of Payments statistics according to the SNA 2008 and BPM6 respectively. In addition, 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 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

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

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 fourth quarter of 2024, from the survey conducted from November 2024 to January 2025 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 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 fourth 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:

The TES estimate the average daily expenditure per person and the average length of stay for non-resident and resident travellers.

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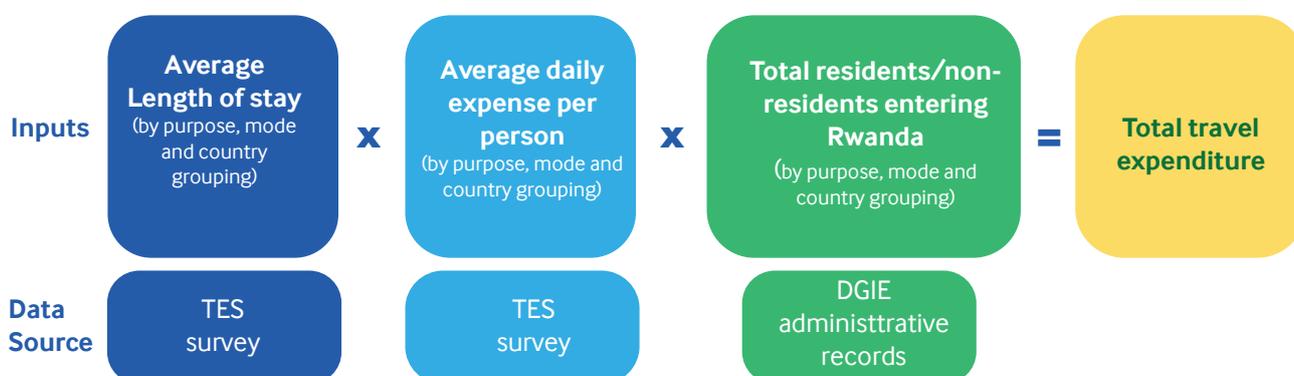
Input data is aggregated by purpose of visit, mode of travel, and country groupings.

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.

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, 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 non-residents 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; Robinson, 2014; Trost, 1986).

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:

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

- 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 non-residents   = 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.

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, education related, health relatedand 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.

Number of respondents

Table one 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 November 2024 to January 2025.

Table 1: November 2024 to January 2025 TES respondents by mode of travel and residence

− Kigali International Airport (KIA)		Mode of travel	Nov 2024-Jan 2025
− With DRC:	Residents	Air	3,873
Poids Lourds[1], Corniche[2], Rusizi I, Rusizi II and Bugarama		Land	21,896
− With Tanzania:		Total	25,769
Rusumo			
− With Uganda:	Non-Residents	Air	3,105
Cyanika, Gatuna and Kagitumba		Land	24,298
		Total	27,403

Source: November 2024 to January 2025 TES | NISR

The basic structure of all TES survey instruments is 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-resident departing visitors collect information about their country of residence and other related information to their visit to Rwanda. Finally, the non-resident questionnaire via KIA included questions about prepaid expenses for their trip to Rwanda.

CHAPTER 2. Results from the Travel Expenditure Survey

This chapter provides the key findings from the Travel Expenditure Survey conducted between November 2024 to January 2025. The main outcomes of the survey are the average daily expenditure per person and the average length of stay, which are utilised in the methodology to estimate travel credit and debit (See Chapter 1).

1.1 Export of travel services

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

1.0.1. 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 travelers 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	267		6	1	15
EAC	5	77	14	7	1	8
Europe	10	16	14	9	1	14
North America	9	8	7	8	1	20
Rest of Africa	6	170	8	9	1	12
Rest of the world	4			7	1	12

Source: Nov 2024 to Jan 2025 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	7	60		3	1	11
EAC	2	159	10	4	1	7
Europe	7	40		7	1	9
North America	2			5	1	5
Rest of Africa	3	216	7	8	1	12
Rest of the world	5			5	1	6

Source: Nov 2024 to Jan 2025 TES | NISR

1.0.2. 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	99	21		197	71	109
EAC	112	40	72	82	89	59
Europe	130	45	14	129	93	89
North America	140	204	104	151	120	114
Rest of Africa	109	42	122	151	80	88
Rest of the world	176			129	105	96

WSource: Nov 2024 to Jan 2025 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	57	24		109	2	22
EAC	21	18	37	44	15	12
Europe	61	10		100	93	77
North America	124			146	48	109
Rest of Africa	40	14	74	64	35	35
Rest of the world	17			138	25	40

Source: Nov 2024 to Jan 2025 TES | NISR

1.1. Import of travel services

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

1.1.1. 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	8	281	43	11	14
EAC	8	90	18	11	11
Europe	12	317	79	17	21
North America	14	323		26	28
Rest of Africa	11	196	7	14	14
Rest of the world	14	7		15	22

Source: Nov 2024 to Jan 2025 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	7	129	43	6	12
Rest of Africa	5				25

Source: Nov 2024 to Jan 2025 TES | NISR

1.1.2. 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	107	31	164	193	121
EAC	100	45	132	114	58
Europe	153	41	111	134	77
North America	154	43		72	71
Rest of Africa	112	24	249	127	80
Rest of the world	114	7		179	110

Source: Nov 2024 to Jan 2025 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	10	86	16	32	8
Rest of Africa	6				14

Source: Nov 2024 to Jan 2025 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. This data is processed, analyzed 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 fourth quarter 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 fourth quarter of 2024, the total number of non-resident travellers to Rwanda by air was 76,438.

Table 10. Non-resident visitors to Rwanda by Air2 for 2024Q4

Country grouping	Business	Education	Gorilla	Health	Holiday	VFR	Transit
Asia	2,047	112	166	1	1,017	1,555	963
EAC	7,338	290	252	115	2,494	7,427	9,051
Europe	2,593	55	1,105	16	3,825	4,484	2,068
North America	649	15	3,198	1	2	3,245	530
Rest of Africa	6,474	889	326	31	3,164	5,086	4,613
Rest of the world	184	1	467	1	83	377	128
Total	19,285	1,362	5,514	165	10,585	22,174	17,353

Source: DGIE, 2024

Table 11 illustrates the total number of non-resident travellers to Rwanda by land. The total number of non-resident arrivals by land is 248,646 in the fourth quarter of 2024.

Table 11. Non-resident visitors to Rwanda by Land3 for 2024Q4

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2   Air 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.

3   For estimating total land credits in Chapter 4, land transits are considered except for DRC residents,

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	VFR	Transit
Asia	772	4	1	166	1,096	456
EAC	76,251	1,629	1,670	14,707	90,978	51,853
Europe	612	13	9	196	1,635	1,113
North America	243		4	72	848	487
Rest of Africa	949	212	7	133	1,296	645
Rest of the world	78			55	313	143
Total	78,905	1,858	1,691	15,329	96,166	54,697

Source: DGIE, 2024

3.2.2. Number of Rwandan Resident Travellers Abroad

For air travellers, Table 12 shows that, in the fourth quarter of 2024, the total number of returning Rwandan residents from abroad by air was 56,324.

Table 12: Rwandan Resident Travellers by Air for 2024Q4

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	Visit
Asia	1,308	42	51	244	328
EAC	25,279	1,571	551	6,509	15,061
Europe	699	208	15	493	602
North America	276	29	1	209	301
Rest of Africa	1,234	69	2	437	711
Rest of the world	45	2	-	24	24
Total	28,840	1,922	620	7,916	17,026

Source: DGIE, 2024

For land travellers, Table 13 shows that, in the fourth quarter of 2024, the total number of resident travellers returning from abroad by land was 339,110.

Table 13: Rwandan Resident travellers by land for 2024Q4

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	Visit
Asia	113	-	-	3	614
EAC	169,786	2,654	225	3,942	160,461
Europe	358	-	-	24	115
North America	41	-	-	2	41
Rest of Africa	446	3	-	19	230
Rest of the world	19	-	-	4	8
Total	170,764	2,657	225	3,995	161,469

Source: DGIE, 2024

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.

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CHAPTER 4. TRAVEL CREDITS AND DEBITS

This chapter provides quarterly estimates of total travel expenditures for 2024Q3 and 2024Q4. In these quarters, the total travel credit by expenditure was 191.1 million USD and 126.1 million USD respectively, while the total debit by expenditure stood at 104.0 million USD and 91.0 million USD respectively for the same quarter. In 2024Q4, travellers using air transport mode generated 81.1 percent of credit transactions compared to 65.1 percent for debit transactions. Regarding the purpose of total travel credits by expenditure, holiday travellers contributed 44.6 percent, VFR travellers contributed 28.1 percent while business travellers contributed 14.1 percent. On the other hand, for total debit travellers, business contributed 39.8 percent, VFR contributed 29.8 percent while Education contributed 15.7 percent.

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	2024Q3	2024Q4
Business	29.2	33.4	38.9	34.4	19.7	28.7	30.4	17.8
Education	6.1	9.7	17.8	10.8	9.2	7.6	21.4	13.2
Health	0.5	0.7	1.4	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Holiday	39.0	49.5	84.3	63.2	59.9	60.3	103.9	56.2
VFR	38.6	24.9	31.7	36.3	34.2	37.2	30.8	35.5
Transit	1.3	3.2	4.6	3.6	1.7	2.2	3.8	2.6
Total	114.7	121.4	178.7	149.0	125.5	136.8	191.1	126.1

Source: NISR, TES 2024

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

Purpose	2023Q1	2023Q2	2023Q3	2023Q4	2024Q1	2024Q2	2024Q3	2024Q4
Business	42.5	46.7	56.4	47.3	30.1	28.4	33.2	36.3
Education	2.1	1.2	3.7	16.8	20.0	7.1	24.3	14.3
Health	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.5	3.1	2.0
Holiday	8.3	10.8	15.7	20.5	10.9	11.7	7.8	11.4
VFR	14.5	17.8	23.0	22.5	23.2	34.4	35.6	27.1
Total	68.5	77.7	100.2	108.7	85.7	83.1	104.0	91.0

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 fourth 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	2024Q3	2024Q4
Asia	23.3	21.4	25.8	21.5	7.1	8.6	10.3	7.6
EAC	5.1	7.9	15.2	8.9	10.2	10.1	13.1	12.7
Europe	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.1	26.6	25.5	30.0	21.9
North America	37.1	48.3	80.9	58.7	35.0	44.4	64.3	32.5
Rest of Africa	29.5	12.5	17.2	23.1	22.9	20.3	35.4	23.4
Rest of the world	0.4	0.8	1.2	0.8	4.2	3.6	8.1	4.2
Total	95.5	91.2	140.7	113.1	106.1	112.6	161.3	102.3

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	2024Q3	2024Q4
Business	23.3	21.4	25.8	21.5	14	22.2	20.7	14.5
Education	5.1	7.9	15.2	8.9	7.8	2.9	19.6	7.9
Health	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2
Holiday	37.1	48.3	80.9	58.7	58.4	57.2	102.0	53.2
VFR	29.5	12.5	17.2	23.1	25	29.1	17.1	24.9
Transit	0.4	0.8	1.2	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.5	1.6
Total	95.5	91.2	140.7	113.1	106.1	112.6	161.3	102.3

Source: NISR, TES 2024

For Credit by land, Tables 18 and 19 show the total expenditures by non-resident travellers to Rwanda in the fourth 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	2024Q3	2024Q4
Asia	0.3	0.6	1.7	4.3	0.33	1.2	1.1	0.6
EAC	16.0	28.3	30.4	27.5	15.79	16.7	25.8	19.4
Europe	1.7	0.6	2.0	2.3	1.77	2.2	0.8	1.6
North America	0.9	0.4	0.9	0.8	1.01	1.0	0.6	0.6
Rest of Africa	0.1	0.2	2.0	0.6	0.22	2.8	1.1	1.4
Rest of the world	0.2	0.3	0.9	0.5	0.28	0.3	0.5	0.1
Total	19.2	30.4	37.9	36.0	19.40	24.2	29.8	23.8

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	2024Q3	2024Q4
Business	5.9	12.0	13.0	12.9	5.7	1.2	9.7	3.3
Education	1.0	1.8	2.6	1.9	1.36	16.7	1.7	5.3
Health	0.4	0.5	1.1	0.6	0.67	2.2	0.5	0.6
Holiday	2.0	1.2	3.4	4.5	1.53	1.0	1.9	3.0
Visit	9.1	12.5	14.5	13.3	9.20	2.8	13.6	10.5
Transit	0.9	2.4	3.3	2.8	0.95	0.3	2.3	1.0
Total	19.2	30.4	37.9	36.0	19.40	24.2	29.8	23.8

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	2024Q3	2024Q4
Asia	1.5	1.5	2	3.3	3.7	3.5	7.3	2.9
EAC	20.5	26.3	33	39.6	37.9	34.9	35.7	44.5
Europe	10.9	11.2	15.1	8.8	10.0	8.2	11.4	6.2
North America	5.2	4.8	7.6	3.3	4.5	4.8	8.3	2.0
Rest of Africa	1.6	1.9	2.7	3.1	3.8	4.7	6.6	3.5
Rest of the world	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2
Total	40	45.9	60.7	58.4	60.4	56.4	69.4	59.3

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	2024Q3	2024Q4
Business	**18.0**	**20.1**	**22.8**	**18.7**	**18.5**	**18.2**	**14.5**	**24.4**
Education	1.5	1.1	3.6	13.1	15.1	6.1	22.2	10.2
Health	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.3	2.9	1.8
Holiday	7.1	9.5	14.9	14.2	9.6	11.5	7.5	10.7
VFR	12.3	14.2	18.0	11.2	16.0	19.4	22.3	12.2
Total	39.9	46.0	60.6	58.3	60.3	56.5	69.4	59.3

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	2024Q3	2024Q4
Asia	-	-	-	1.1	1.5	-	0.0	-
EAC	28.6	31.6	39.5	49.1	17.6	23.5	34.5	31.7
Europe	-	-	-	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	-
North America	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	0.0	-
Rest of Africa	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	6.2	3.1	0.1	0.1
Rest of the world	-	-	-	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	-
Total	28.6	31.6	39.5	50.4	25.3	26.6	34.5	31.8

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	2024Q3	2024Q4
Business	24.5	26.6	33.5	28.6	11.6	10.2	18.7	11.9
Education	0.6	0.1	0.1	3.8	4.9	1.0	2.1	4.1
Health	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2
Holiday	1.3	1.2	0.8	6.3	1.3	0.2	0.3	0.7
VFR	2.2	3.6	5.0	11.3	7.2	15.0	13.3	14.9
Total	28.7	31.6	39.5	50.5	25.4	26.6	34.5	31.8

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 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 information on expenditure and duration is available. Consequently, the travel expenditure survey does not include Rwandan residents departing from Rwanda neither non-resident 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).4 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 resident5 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

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

5   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.

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 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

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, 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:

3.1.1. Number of nights

3.1.2. International exits via land borders

3.1.3. Number of travellers

3.1.4.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:

    1.1. Cases reporting no expenses in either of the different types of expenditure categories.

1.2.   Records without the purpose of travel.

1.3.   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.

1. Winsorization/outlier treatment

Winsorization is a technique that replaces extreme data values with less extreme values. The procedure followed is outlined here:

1.1. 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.6

1.2. For each transformed variable (and by air and land separately), values above 3 standard deviations on each tail of the distribution are trimmed.

1.3. 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 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.

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6   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.

APPENDIX D: Staff involved in November 2024 to January 2025 TES

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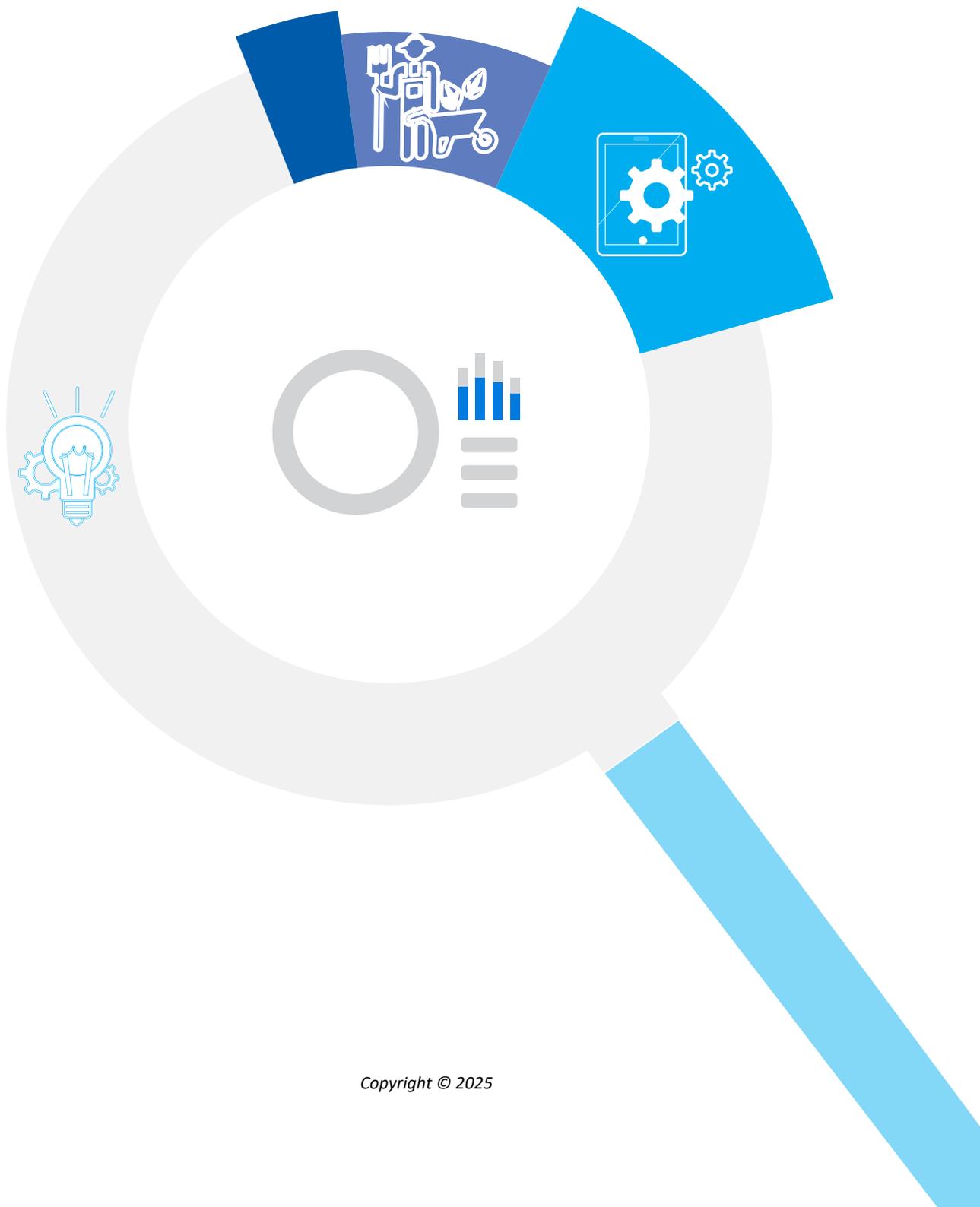| Report Editing and Design |
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