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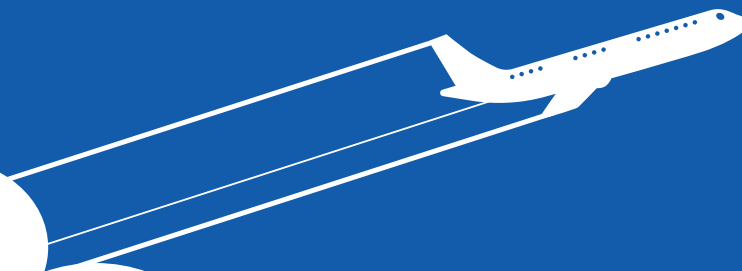


nisr
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
STATISTICS OF RWANDA



TRAVEL EXPENDITURE SURVEY REPORT

Semester 2, 2025



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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	: Rwandan Francs
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
IRTS 2008	: International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics, 2008

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 is conducted biannually to cover data for both the low and high travel seasons, data collection takes place from November to January and May to July respectively. The results of the Travel Expenditure Survey (TES) provide an important source of information for compiling the Balance of Payments (BOP) and the National Accounts (NA). This report contains updates of travel estimates for the period that runs from July to December 2025, alongside the estimates of previous quarters.

The survey includes expenditures by non-residents visiting Rwanda (inbound) as well as spending by Rwandan residents traveling abroad (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 total 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.

NISR extends its gratitude to partner institutions for their significant support, including financial, technical, and other contributions. Furthermore, NISR appreciates the dedicated efforts of the TES technical and fieldwork staff, whose commitment was essential to the completion of this project.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Travel Expenditure Survey helps to measure the spending patterns of travellers. From the economic perspective, goods and services purchased by non-Rwandan Residents during their visit to Rwanda are recorded as exports, whereas goods and services purchased from other countries by Rwandan residents during their visit abroad are recorded as imports.

The survey collected information from a varied sample of both Rwandan and foreign visitors. The analysis of expenditures encompasses in major categories including: accommodation, food and beverages, transportation, shopping, entertainment, sightseeing, education-related services, health-related services, and other spending excluding international transportation costs.

Travel covers stays of any length, given that there is no change of residence. The residence of a household is determined according to the centre of predominant economic interest of its members. This is determined as the economic territory in which household members maintain a dwelling, or a succession of dwellings, that is treated and used as their principal dwelling. According to MSITS 2010 and BPM6, the presence in a territory for one year or more or the intention to do so, is sufficient to establish a principal dwelling there.

As a result, this report primarily covers the findings of the travel expenditure survey from November 2025 to January 2026, which are utilized to estimate travel services for 2025Q4 and the next period. The survey summary results are as follows:

On average, among non-Rwandan residents travelling by land, the primary purpose of staying in Rwanda was education (163 days), with the largest number of stays from EAC (166 days). Similarly, among non-residents exiting by air, on average the majority stayed in Rwanda for education (154 days), with visitors from Asia recording the largest number of stays (193 days).

Alternatively, on average, Rwandan residents travelling by land stayed abroad for education (124 days) as the primary purpose with the largest number of stays in EAC (124 days). Similarly, for air travel, education was also the purpose associated with the longest average stays where Rwandans mostly stayed abroad for (339 days), which were predominantly in Europe (457 days).

In 2025Q4, Rwanda's export of travel services was estimated at 161.5 million USD. According to this estimate, the total expenditure of non-residents arriving by air in Rwanda reached 136.7 million USD. By purpose of visit, holiday travel contributed 65 million USD, to this total. Within this segment, revenue generated by Gorillas accounted for 71.4%. By region, visitors from North America recorded the highest expenditure, totalling 40.8 million USD. Moreover, the expenditure of non-residents entering Rwanda by land during their stay is estimated at 24.9 million USD. The primary purpose for these visits was Visiting Friends and Relatives (VFR), which accounted for 11.3 million USD, while by regional perspective, the largest spending is originated from EAC, totalling 19.7 million USD.

In 2025Q4, Rwanda's imports of travel services were estimated at 95.9 million USD. According to this estimate, the expenditure of residents travelling by air during their stay abroad amounted to 64.4 million USD. Business was the primary purpose of these visits, accounting for 22.2 million USD. By region of destination, EAC recorded the highest spending, totalling 53.9 million USD. Moreover, residents travelling by land spent 31.5 million USD. The primary purpose of these trips was Visiting Friends and Relatives, with a total of 12.4 million USD, and the largest spending in EAC 31.5 million USD.

The results from this survey are instrumental in catering to a diverse range of tourist interests and enhancing overall travel experiences. Also, it serves as a crucial input for the National Accounts, Balance of payments, and Tourism Satellite Account statistics, according to the SNA 2008, BPM6 and IRTS 2008, respectively. Consequently, policymakers, businesses, and other stakeholders can rely on the results of this report to inform evidence-based decision-making.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Methodology overview

To improve the coverage and methodology for compiling the Balance of Payments (BOP), the National Accounts (NA), and Tourism Satellite Account, the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR) conducts the bi-annual Travel Expenditure Survey (TES) in partnership with the National Bank of Rwanda (NBR), the Rwanda Development Board (RDB), and the Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration (DGIE). The data collection is conducted during two distinct seasonal periods, from November to January representing the low season and from May to July during the high season.

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

This report provides the travel estimates for the fourth quarter of 2025, derived from the survey conducted from November 2025 to January 2026, and the estimates for previous periods. In addition, this report highlights the methodology used for data collection in Rwanda's TES. A series of key concepts and definitions used in the TES are included in the Appendix.

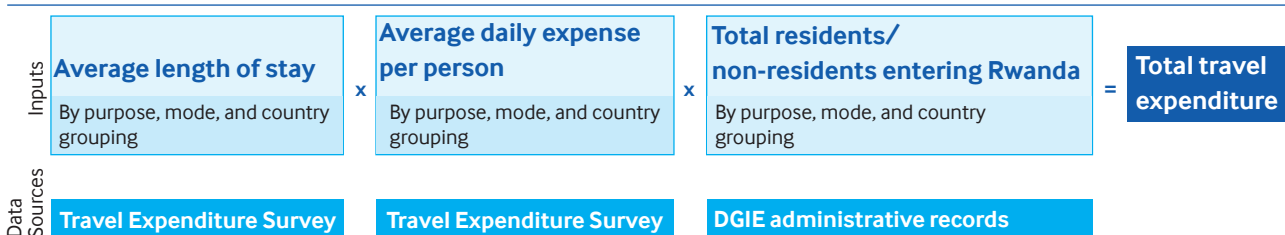
This report comprises four chapters, outlined as follows:

- Chapter 1 covers the methodology for estimating travel expenditures,
- Chapter 2 shows survey results,
- Chapter 3 presents official figures for arrivals and departures from Rwanda DGIE, and
- Chapter 4 presents grossed-up results of total travel services (credits and debits) estimates from quarters of 2024 and 2025.

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 estimates 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



Survey data are aggregated by purpose of visit, mode of travel, and country groupings.

- Purpose of visit presents the primary motive behind the traveller's journey. This includes business, holiday, health, education, and visiting friends and Relatives (VFR), transit, or any other reason. It is important to note that:
 - Business group combines Conference, Official Mission, Trade, and other business-related purposes.
 - Holiday includes travel for relaxation, leisure, and other holiday purposes.
- Mode of travel refers to the border point type (airport or land border).
- Country grouping refers to the country of residence of the traveller. Countries are grouped by regions which include Asia, the East African Community (EAC), Europe, the Rest of Africa, North America and the Rest of the world.

1.2 Sampling methodology

The methodology employed for TES follows a two-stage process. The first stage involves the selection of borders, which is based on border flows provided by DGIE¹. In total, 11 borders were selected namely Kigali International Airport, Rusumo, Kagitumba, Buziba, 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 country of residence to identify the targeted travellers for interviews. The screening process ensures that, non-resident visitors exiting Rwanda (travel credit) and Rwandan residents returning from abroad (travel debit).

Data collection is conducted at the end of traveller's trip, to ensure they can provide a complete picture of expenditure on goods and services acquired during their visit. For non-residents, data are collected at the exit point as they depart Rwanda. For residents, data are collected at the entry point when they return from abroad. The TES field staff conduct as many interviews as possible with eligible travellers. All the interviews are administered voluntarily, through a face-to-face, approach using CAPI.

The determination of sample size for both returning residents and outgoing non-residents involves considering factors like desired precision, confidence level, the population size, research objectives, resources, and population variability, since purposive sampling lacks a specific formula.

Purposive sampling is used to select respondents that are most likely to provide relevant and useful information (Kelly, 2010: 317) and is a way for identifying cases that make use of limited research resources effectively (Palinkas et al., 2015). Unlike random sampling, it deliberately includes specific cases in the sample, based on the assumption that certain individuals can offer distinct and valuable perspectives on the research topic (Mason, 2002; Robinson, 2014; Trost, 1986).

A commonly used guideline for determining sample size in purposive sampling is to select between 5% and 10% of the population (Etikan, Musa, & Alkassim, 2016; Creswell & Creswell, 2018). For TES, a sample size of 5% of the population was chosen as follows:

a) 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 = $0.05 * 600,000 = 30,000$

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

b) 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.

1.3 Classification used for travel services component

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

Travel Services encompass all expenditures by international travellers on goods and services acquired within an economy by persons who are not residents of that economy and whose duration of stay is less than one year, whether for business or personal purposes. The classification of transactions is as follows:

- **Travel receipts:** These comprise expenditures pursued by non-residents visitors during their stay in a country. This includes payments for accommodation, meals, transportation, entertainment, education-related, health-related services, and other goods and services.
- **Travel payments:** This refers to expenditures by residents travelling abroad. It includes expenses incurred for similar purposes as Travel receipts, but conducted 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 November 2025 to January 2026.

Table 1: November 2025 to January 2026 TES respondents by mode of travel and residence

Borders by Country	Residence	Mode of travel	Data
A. Kigali International Airport (KIA) B. DRC: Poids Lourds, La Corniche, Rusizi I, Rusizi II and Bugarama C. TANZANIA: Rusumo D. UGANDA: Cyanika, Gatuna, Kagitumba, and Buziba	Residents	Air	3,779
		Land	21,724
		Total	25,503
	Non-Residents	Air	5,300
		Land	30,249
		Total	35,549

Source: Nov 2025 –Jan 2026 TES | NISR

The basic structure of all survey instruments is consistent. Each survey form is designed to collect specific information from travellers in accordance with the MSITS 2010 international recommendations. This includes information such as the traveller's nationality, country of residence, main purpose of travel, length of stay, and expenditure patterns and type, including categories such as accommodation, food and beverage, sightseeing, etc.

For returning residents who may have visited multiple countries, the questionnaire focuses on identifying the main country visited. Similarly, the questionnaires administered to non-resident departing visitors collect information about their country of residence and other relevant information regarding their visit to Rwanda. Additionally,, the questionnaire for non-residents, conducted at Kigali International Airport (KIA) includes questions aimed at capturing any prepaid expenses incurred in relation to their trip to Rwanda.

2 SURVEY RESULTS

This chapter provides key findings from the TES conducted from November 2025 to January 2026. The main objectives of the survey are to find the average daily expenditure per person and the average length of stay, which are utilized in the methodology to estimate travel service statistics (See Chapter 1).

2.1 Export of travel services

This section highlights the average length of stay and average daily expenditure per person for 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 for non-resident travellers to Rwanda, disaggregated by country groupings and purpose of travel.

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

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	Transit	VFR
Asia	11	193	-	8	1	14
EAC	9	94	18	6	1	10
Europe	13	45	-	11	1	18
North America	12	16	4	11	1	22
Rest of Africa	8	187	8	9	1	13
Rest of the world	16	-	-	6	1	12

Source: Nov 2025 – Jan 2026 TES / NISR

For travellers entering by Land, Table 3 shows the average length of stay for non-resident travellers to Rwanda, disaggregated by country groupings and purpose of travel.

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

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	Transit	VFR
Asia	5	-	-	7	1	4
EAC	1	166	8	3	1	6
Europe	7	89	-	6	1	7
North America	3	-	-	11	1	21
Rest of Africa	8	140	83	5	1	14
Rest of the world	2	-	-	5	1	8

Source: Nov 2025 – Jan 2026 TES / NISR

2.1.2 Average daily expenditure per Non-Resident

For air travellers, Table 4 shows the daily average expenditure for non-resident travellers to Rwanda, disaggregated by country groupings and purpose of travel.

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

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	Transit	VFR
Asia	108	62	-	134	60	98
EAC	102	34	47	115	63	56
Europe	117	74	-	123	54	66
North America	110	30	138	138	68	79
Rest of Africa	121	39	73	147	59	77
Rest of the world	99	-	-	180	75	89

Source: Nov 2025 – Jan 2026 TES / NISR

For land travellers, Table 5 shows the daily average expenditure for non-resident travellers to Rwanda, disaggregated by country groupings and purpose of travel.

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

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	Transit	VFR
Asia	29	-	-	92	35	82
EAC	17	17	51	31	13	13
Europe	52	2	-	100	56	61
North America	113	-	-	94	54	76
Rest of Africa	21	19	164	45	19	29
Rest of the world	20	-	-	103	14	38

Source: Nov 2025 – Jan 2026 TES / NISR

2.2 Import of travel services

This section highlights the average length of stay and average daily expenditure for travellers who are residents of Rwanda visiting destinations abroad.

2.2.1 Average length of stay for Residents

Tables 6 and 7 illustrate the average length of stay for resident travelling abroad, with results disaggregated by mode of travel (air and land).

Specifically, Table 6 displays the average length of stay for resident travelling by air, disaggregated by destination country grouping and by purpose of travel.

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	269	-	9	15
EAC	8	145	23	8	9
Europe	13	457	65	16	18
North America	21	435	-	24	25
Rest of Africa	15	290	9	11	17
Rest of the world	14	-	-	9	14

Source: Nov 2025 – Jan 2026 TES / NISR

For travellers departing by land, Table 7 displays the average length of stay abroad, disaggregated by destination country grouping and purpose of travel.

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

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	VFR
EAC	7	124	50	6	11
Rest of Africa	1	-	-	-	7

Source: Nov 2025 – Jan 2026 TES / NISR

2.2.2 Average daily expenditure per Resident.

Tables 8 and 9 present the average daily expenditure of resident travellers abroad, disaggregated by destination country grouping and main purpose of travel.

Table 8 presents, the average daily expenditure for resident travelling by air, disaggregated by destination country grouping and purpose of travel.

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

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	VFR
Asia	114	44	-	191	100
EAC	110	57	160	150	57
Europe	162	91	113	156	57
North America	89	69	-	94	52
Rest of Africa	97	49	203	137	54
Rest of the world	67	-	-	135	87

Source: Nov 2025 – Jan 2026 TES / NISR

Table 9 presents the average daily expenditure of resident travellers by land, disaggregated by destination country grouping and purpose of travel.

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

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	VFR
EAC	10	15	17	29	8
Rest of Africa	4	-	-	-	1

Source: Nov 2025 – Jan 2026 TES / NISR

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 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 arriving in Rwanda, during the fourth quarter of 2025, is derived from total arrivals as presented in Table 10 for Air arrivals and Table 11 for Land arrivals. These tables provide detailed data categorized by the purpose of travel and the country grouping for residents.

For air travellers, Table 10 below shows that, in the fourth quarter of 2025, the total number of non-residents travellers to Rwanda by air was 99,126.

Table 10. Non-resident visitors to Rwanda by Air² for 2025Q4

Country grouping	Business	Education	Gorilla	Health	Holiday	Visit	Transit	
Asia	3,014	16	199		2	1,736	2,471	1135
EAC	7,353	336	228		90	2,522	11,688	10,522
Europe	2,682	65	1,062		6	4,383	6,341	2,304
North America	1,034	40	3,692		20	1307	5,232	575
Rest of Africa	6,091	1474	376		35	4,884	8,594	5,294
Rest of the world	239	14	551		-	263	889	367
Total	20,413	1,945	6,108		153	15,095	35,215	20,197

Source: DGIE, 2025

Table 11 illustrates the total number of non-resident travellers to Rwanda by land. In the fourth quarter of 2025, the total number of non-resident arrivals by land was 350, 233.

Table 11. Non-resident visitors to Rwanda by Land³ for 2025Q4

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	Visit	Transit
Asia	1,794	8	2	141	1,580	1,408
EAC	182,977	1947	1461	12057	104,515	31,260
Europe	506	2	-	223	1,752	1,069
North America	191	-	-	66	923	439
Rest of Africa	1,148	237	3	143	1,309	2,310
Rest of the world	66	2	1	20	306	357
Total	186,682	2196	1467	12650	110,385	36,843

Source: DGIE, 2025 Q4

- 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, 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.

3.2.1 Number of Rwandan Resident Travellers Abroad

Table 12 shows that, the total number of returning residents who travelled by air in the fourth quarter of 2025 was 58, 666.

Table 12: Rwandan Resident Travellers by Air for 2025Q4

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	Visit
Asia	524	2	-	530	813
EAC	21,457	1,709	520	6,033	22,121
Europe	365	3	1	571	817
North America	191	7	5	348	417
Rest of Africa	462	13	2	582	1,068
Rest of the world	25	-	-	41	40
Total	23,023	1,733	528	8,106	25,276

Source: DGIE, 2025 Q4

Table 13 presents that, the total number of returning resident who travelled by land travellers in the fourth quarter of 2025 was 334,859.

Table 13: Rwandan Resident travellers by land for 2025Q4

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	Visit
Asia	1,391	-	-	27	372
EAC	181,336	3,103	1,174	1,992	143,851
Europe	223	-	1	41	72
North America	82	-	-	7	38
Rest of Africa	645	2	-	143	317
Rest of the world	8	-	-	29	5
Total	183,686	3,105	1,175	2,239	144,654

Source : DGIE, 2025 Q4

4 TRAVEL CREDITS AND DEBITS

This chapter provides quarterly estimates of total travel expenditures for the 2025 semester 2, covering 2025Q3 and 2025Q4. In 2025Q3 and 2025Q4, total travel credits were 190.6 million USD and 161.5 million USD, respectively, while the total debits stood at 90.1 million USD and 95.9 million USD, respectively. In 2025 Q4, travellers using air transport mode generated 84.6% of credit transactions, compared to 67.2% for debit transactions.

In terms of purpose of travel, holiday travellers accounted the largest share of travel credits, contributed 41.1%, followed by visitors travelling to visit friends and relatives at 29.6%, and business travellers contributing 16.2%. On the debit side, business travellers contributed 35.7%, followed by visiting friends and relatives' travellers at 28.3%, while education-related travellers contributed 21.3%.

4.1 Quarterly travel credits, debits and balances

Table 14 and Table 15 contain the findings of credit and debit by purpose of travel from 2024 to 2025.

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

Purpose	2024Q1	2024Q2	2024Q3	2024Q4	2025Q1	2025Q2	2025Q3	2025Q4
Business	25.9	28.7	24.8	17.8	19.7	23.8	29.6	26.2
Education	10.2	7.6	7.3	13.2	13.8	10.8	16.0	18.4
Health	1.0	0.8	0.3	0.8	0.6	1.6	1.3	0.7
Holiday	61.6	58.8	98.6	56.2	57.4	50.0	98.1	66.4
VFR	37.5	37.0	43.8	35.5	36.9	33.6	43.2	47.8
Transit	2.7	2.2	2.5	2.6	2.2	2.0	2.4	1.9
Total	138.9	135.1	177.3	126.1	130.7	121.7	190.6	161.5

Source: NISR, TES 2025

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

Purpose	2024Q1	2024Q2	2024Q3	2024Q4	2025Q1	2025Q2	2025Q3	2025Q4
Business	30.1	28.4	33.2	34.1	33.8	33.4	28.0	34.2
Education	20	7.1	24.3	13.7	18.5	17.2	23.1	20.4
Health	1.5	1.5	3.1	2.0	2.2	2.0	3.1	2.9
Holiday	10.9	11.7	7.8	11.4	6.2	10.9	9.1	11.3
VFR	23.2	34.4	35.6	26.8	23.0	25.7	26.8	27.1
Total	85.7	83.1	104.0	88.0	83.7	89.3	90.1	95.9

Source: NISR, TES 2025

4.1.1 Credits

For Credit by air, tables 16 and 17 show the total expenditures for non-resident travellers arriving in Rwanda by air in the fourth quarter of 2025, disaggregated by country groupings and purpose of travel, respectively.

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

Country grouping	2024Q1	2024Q2	2024Q3	2024Q4	2025Q1	2025Q2	2025Q3	2025Q4
Asia	7.1	8.5	10.2	7.6	9.1	8.2	13.8	10.7
EAC	10.2	9.2	10.2	12.7	13.6	17.0	31.5	18.6
Europe	26.6	24.9	34.2	21.9	25.7	18.4	38.2	26.2
North America	35	44.4	69.3	32.5	36.9	37.7	73.1	40.8
Rest of Africa	22.9	20.2	22.5	23.4	20.9	15.9	24.1	34.5
Rest of the world	4.2	3.5	8.2	4.2	4.0	3.9	9.9	5.8
Total	106.0	110.7	154.6	102.3	110.2	101.1	190.6	136.7

Source: NISR, TES 2025

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

Purpose	2024Q1	2024Q2	2024Q3	2024Q4	2025Q1	2025Q2	2025Q3	2025Q4
Business	14	22.2	19.8	14.5	16.9	20.4	25.2	21.5
Education	7.8	2.9	3.4	7.9	8.5	4.9	9.5	12.1
Health	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.1
Holiday	58.3	55.8	97.0	53.2	55.2	49.5	96.3	65.0
VFR	25	29.0	33.2	24.9	27.9	24.5	31.8	36.5
Transit	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.6	1.4
Total	106	111.0	154.6	102.3	110.2	101.1	164.7	136.7

Source: NISR, TES 2025

Tables 18 and 19 present the total expenditures of non-resident travellers to Rwanda in the fourth quarter of 2025 for credit of land passengers. Table 18 shows land credit by country groupings, while table 19 present land credit by purpose of travel.

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

Country grouping	2024Q1	2024Q2	2024Q3	2024Q4	2025Q1	2025Q2	2025Q3	2025Q4
Asia	3.5	1.2	1.1	0.6	0.8	2.2	2.6	0.9
EAC	25.8	16.7	14.5	19.4	16.2	14.4	16.4	19.7
Europe	1.8	2.2	2.3	1.6	1.6	1.6	2.7	1.1
North America	0.8	1.0	1.4	0.6	0.5	0.9	1.6	1.6
Rest of Africa	0.6	2.8	3.1	1.4	1.3	1.5	2.4	1.5
Rest of the world	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
Total	32.8	24.1	22.6	23.7	20.4	20.7	25.9	24.9

Source: NISR, TES 2025

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

Purpose	2024Q1	2024Q2	2024Q3	2024Q4	2025Q1	2025Q2	2025Q3	2025Q4
Business	11.9	6.5	5.0	3.3	2.8	3.4	4.4	4.7
Education	2.4	4.8	3.9	5.3	5.3	6.0	6.5	6.2
Health	0.9	0.7	0.2	0.6	0.4	1.1	1.0	0.6
Holiday	3.3	3.1	1.6	3.0	2.2	0.5	1.8	1.4
Visit	12.5	8	10.6	10.5	9.0	9.0	11.4	11.3
Transit	1.9	1.1	1.3	1.0	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.6
Total	32.9	24.2	22.6	23.7	20.4	20.7	25.9	24.9

Source: NISR, TES 2025

4.1.2. Debits

Tables 20 and 21 illustrate the total amounts spent abroad by Rwandan residents for air travel debits. Table 20 disaggregated the amounts by country groupings, and table 21 by purpose of travel.

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

Country grouping	2024Q1	2024Q2	2024Q3	2024Q4	2025Q1	2025Q2	2025Q3	2025Q4
Asia	3.7	3.5	7.3	2.9	2.8	2.3	2.8	2.7
EAC	37.9	34.9	35.7	44.5	39.4	47.4	45.2	53.9
Europe	10	8.2	11.4	6.2	4.4	3.5	3.5	3.1
North America	4.5	4.8	8.3	2.0	2.3	2.6	2.9	1.9
Rest of Africa	3.8	4.7	6.6	3.5	3.6	3.1	3.8	2.7
Rest of the world	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1
Total	60.4	56.4	69.4	59.3	52.7	59.1	58.4	64.4

Source: NISR, TES 2025

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

Purpose	2024Q1	2024Q2	2024Q3	2024Q4	2025Q1	2025Q2	2025Q3	2025Q4
Business	18.5	18.2	14.5	24.4	20.6	22.4	15.0	22.2
Education	15.1	6.1	22.2	10.2	12.7	10.8	19.3	14.7
Health	1.1	1.3	2.9	1.8	1.9	1.5	0.7	1.9
Holiday	9.6	11.5	7.5	10.7	6.1	10.7	9.0	10.9
VFR	16.0	19.4	22.3	12.2	11.5	13.7	14.3	14.6
Total	60.3	56.5	69.4	59.3	52.7	59.1	58.4	64.4

Source: NISR, TES 2025

Tables 22 and table 23 illustrate the total amounts spent abroad by returning residents for land travel debits. Table 22 disaggregated by country groupings, and table 23 provide the breakdown by purpose of travel.

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

Country grouping	2024Q1	2024Q2	2024Q3	2024Q4	2025Q1	2025Q2	2025Q3	2025Q4
Asia	1.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EAC	17.6	23.5	34.5	28.7	30.9	30.1	31.6	31.5
Rest of Africa	6.2	3.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Total	25.3	26.6	34.5	28.8	31.0	30.2	31.7	31.5

Source: NISR, TES 2025

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

Purpose	2024Q1	2024Q2	2024Q3	2024Q4	2025Q1	2025Q2	2025Q3	2025Q4
Business	11.6	10.2	18.7	9.8	13.2	11	13.0	12.0
Education	4.9	1.0	2.1	3.5	5.9	6.4	3.7	5.7
Health	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.5	2.3	1.0
Holiday	1.3	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.4
VFR	7.2	15.0	13.3	14.7	11.4	12	12.6	12.4
Total	25.4	26.6	34.5	28.8	31.0	30.2	31.7	31.5

Source: NISR, TES 2025

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APPENDICES

A.1 Key concepts and definitions in TES

1. **Number of visits and flows:** The number of visits relates to the number of completed visits (i.e., the data collected relates to the number of visits, not the number of visitors), counted upon arrival as Rwandan residents returning from their stay abroad and upon exit as non-residents leaving 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 neither includes Rwandan residents departing from Rwanda nor 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-resident visitors:** A non-resident visitor is a person who is a permanent resident in another country other than Rwanda. This includes foreigners who stay 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:** A Rwandan resident is a person who is a permanent resident⁵ of Rwanda. This 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 the 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 a purpose of travel exclusively for non-resident 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 in 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.
 - **Rwandan residents' 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

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.

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 before the departure, excluding the cost of international flights.

- **Non-resident expenditure data:** For non-resident visitors, the survey collected travel expenditure of non-resident 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 arrival (e.g., as part of a package or independently arranged) is also collected and combined with additional expenditures made while in Rwanda to obtain 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 the 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

- Expenditure on goods for sale since they are declared in customs and accounted in merchandise goods.
- Expenditure on international transportation, including in the international passenger services survey.
- Travellers interviewed reported no expenses.
- Travellers interviewed who report stays of more than 90 days (apart from education and health purposes) were excluded from the analysis on this report.
- 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.

A.2 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 the purpose of travel, focusing on 'other purpose of travel'.
6. Exclusions from analysis:
 - 3.1 Cases reporting no expenses in either of the different types of expenditure categories.
 - 3.2 Records without the purpose of travel.
 - 3.3 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.⁶
 - 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 genuine, are included.

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.

A.3 Travel disclaimer

- 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.
- 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.
- Revisions to the published DGIE estimates can be expected in the report of the annual Travel Expenditure Survey.

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