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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
STATISTICS OF RWANDA

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). This survey is conducted biannually and covers for both the low and high travel seasons. The data collection exercise 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 January to June 2026, 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.

For 

MURENZI Ivan
Director General

MWIZERWA Jean Claude
Deputy Director General



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 comprising both Rwandan and foreign visitors. The expenditure analysis encompasses major categories, including accommodation, food and beverages, transportation, shopping, entertainment, sightseeing, education-related services, health-related services, and other spending, with the exception of international transportation costs.

Travel covers stays of any length, given that no change of residence occurs. The residence of a household is determined according to the centre of predominant economic interest of its members, which is determined as the economic territory in which they maintain a dwelling, or a succession of dwellings, that is treated and used as their principal dwelling. According to MSITS 2010 and BPM6, physical 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 presents the findings of the travel expenditure survey conducted from May to July 2026. The results are utilized to estimate travel services for 2026Q2 and 2026Q3. The survey summary results are as follows:

On average, among non-Rwandan residents travelling by land, the primary purpose of stay in Rwanda was education (121 days), with the largest number of stays from the rest of Africa (190 days). Similarly, among non-residents exiting by air, the majority stayed in Rwanda primarily for educational purposes (72 days), with visitors from the EAC recording the largest number of stays (117 days).

Alternatively, on average, Rwandan residents travelling abroad by land stayed for educational purposes as the primary purpose (76 days), with the largest duration of stay recorded in the EAC (76 days). Similarly, for air travel, education was also the purpose associated with the longest average stays abroad (222 days), with Rwandan residents spending the majority of such stays in North America (278 days).

In 2026Q2, Rwanda's export of travel services was estimated at 161.8 million USD. According to this estimate, total expenditure by non-residents arriving by air in Rwanda reached 135.4 million USD. By purpose of visit, holiday travel contributed 57.6 million USD to this total. Within this segment, revenue generated from gorillas accounted for 79.4%. By region, visitors from North America recorded the highest expenditure, totalling 40.2 million USD. Moreover, expenditure by non-residents entering Rwanda by land during their stay is estimated at 26.4 million USD. The primary purpose for these visits was Visiting Friends and Relatives (VFR), which accounted for 8.2 million USD. From a regional perspective, the largest share of expenditure originated from the EAC, totalling 13.6 million USD.

In 2026Q2, Rwanda's imports of travel services were estimated at 99.7 million USD. According to this estimate, the expenditure of residents travelling by air during their stay abroad amounted to 76.2 million USD. Business was the primary purpose of these visits, accounting for 32.8 million USD. By region of destination, Europe recorded the highest spending, totalling 26 million USD. Furthermore, residents travelling by land spent 23.5 million USD. The primary purpose of these trips was business, with a total of 16.2 million USD, and the largest share of spending originated from the EAC at 23.5 million USD.

The results of this survey are instrumental in addressing a diverse range of tourist interests and in enhancing overall travel experiences. In addition, they serve 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 findings of this report to inform evidence-based decision-making.

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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	: 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
SNA 2008	: 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
CAP	: Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing

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CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Methodology overview

To improve the coverage and methodology for compiling the Balance of Payments (BOP), 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). Data collection is conducted during two distinct seasonal periods, the low season, from November to January, and the high season, from May to July.

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

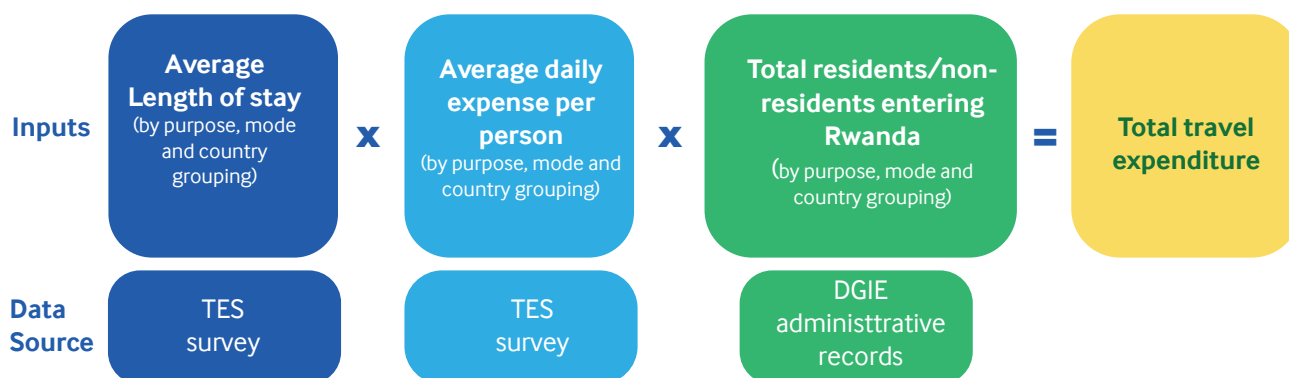
This report provides the travel estimates for the second quarter of 2026, derived from the survey conducted from May to July 2026. The same survey results will be used to estimate travel statistics for the third quarter of 2026. In addition, the report highlights the methodology used for data collection in Rwanda's Travel Expenditure Survey (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 quarterly total travel services (credits and debits) estimates from 2025 Q1 to 2026 Q2.

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

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

Steps in the estimation of travel expenditure



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

1. 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:
2. Business group combines Conference, Official Mission, Trade, and other business-related purposes.
3. Holiday includes travel for relaxation, leisure, and other holiday purposes.
4. Mode of travel refers to the border point type (airport or land border).
5. 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 the Travel Expenditure Survey (TES) follows a two-stage process. The first stage involves the selection of borders, which is based on border flows provided by the 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 in order 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 that respondents can provide a complete picture of expenditures on goods and services acquired during their visit. For non-residents, data are collected at exit points as they depart Rwanda. For residents, data are collected at entry points when they return from abroad. The field staff of the Travel Expenditure Survey (TES) conduct as many interviews as possible with eligible travellers. All interviews are administered voluntarily, through a face-to-face approach with Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI).

The determination of the sample size for both returning residents and outgoing non-residents involves considering factors such as desired precision, confidence level, population size, research objectives, resources, and population variability, since purposive sampling does not rely on a specific formula.

Purposive sampling is used to select respondents that are most likely to provide relevant and useful information (Kelly, 2010: 317). It is also a strategy for identifying cases that make effective use of limited research resources (Palinkas et al., 2015). Unlike random sampling, purposive sampling 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 may be adjusted according to specific study requirements, the desired level of precision, and the resources available. For the Travel Expenditure Survey (TES), seasonality considerations are addressed, with a distinction made between the high travel season (June to September) and the low travel season (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 length 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 May to July 2026.

Table 1: May to July 2026 TES respondents by mode of travel and residence

Borders by Country	Residence	Mode of travel	Data
A. Kigali International Airport (KIA)	Residents	Air	3,945
B. DRC: Ponds Lourds, La Corniche, Rusizi I, Rusizi II and Bugarama		Land	20,300
C.TANZANIA: Rusumo		Total	24,245
D. UGANDA: Cyanika, Gatuna, Kagitumba, and Buziba	Non-Residents	Air	6,191
		Land	24,758
		Total	30,949

Source: May – July 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.

CHAPTER 2. SURVEY RESULTS

This chapter provides key findings from the TES conducted from May to July 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 person to non-residents

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	10	49	7	10	2	14
EAC	5	117	19	7	1	8
Europe	12	47	40	10	1	18
North America	11	36	-	12	1	17
Rest of Africa	7	66	30	6	1	14
Rest of the world	8	-	-	9	1	14

Source: May – July 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	-	-	-	4	1	13
EAC	1	117	9	4	1	8
Europe	1	-	-	6	1	9
North America	12	-	-	4	1	10
Rest of Africa	8	190	-	5	1	11
Rest of the world	7	-	-	2	1	8

Source: May – July 2026 TES | NISR

2.1.2. Average daily expenditure per person to non-residents

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	133	173	12	124	77	79
EAC	125	61	92	137	80	88
Europe	128	75	20	123	80	82
North America	149	89	-	143	102	96
Rest of Africa	141	48	45	149	87	82
Rest of the world	151	-	-	163	106	124

Source: May – July 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	-	-	-	72	73	36
EAC	18	18	56	36	15	11
Europe	15	-	-	76	65	41
North America	59	-	-	105	119	70
Rest of Africa	58	34	-	75	50	50
Rest of the world	14	-	-	92	43	17

Source: May – July 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 residents 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	235	54	14	19
EAC	8	81	14	6	9
Europe	11	238	22	16	17
North America	14	278	50	12	24
Rest of Africa	13	178	20	10	15
Rest of the world	14	63	-	10	24

Source: May – July 2026 TES | NISR

Table 7 presents 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	8	76	33	9	12
Rest of Africa	18	-	-	-	8

Source: May – July 2026 TES | NISR

2.2.2. Average daily expenditure per residents.

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 travellers 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	110	29	114	149	52
EAC	102	65	211	170	48
Europe	127	48	106	130	78
North America	140	63	114	143	58
Rest of Africa	103	71	177	159	61
Rest of the world	103	30	-	165	43

Source: May – July 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	9	43	18	30	8
Rest of Africa	13	-	-	-	10

Source: May – July 2026 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 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 second quarter of 2026 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 purpose of travel and the country grouping for residents.

For air travellers, Table 10 below shows that, in the second quarter of 2026, the total number of non-residents travellers to Rwanda by air was 94,308.

Table 10. Non-resident visitors to Rwanda by Air² for 2026Q2

Country grouping	Business	Education	Gorilla	Health	Holiday	Visit	Transit
Asia	3,676	34	250	3	1,297	2,664	374
EAC	13,465	362	294	114	1,443	9,905	5,089
Europe	5,271	47	1,008	5	2,730	5,579	1,867
North America	2,153	55	3,469	9	1,042	5,018	409
Rest of Africa	7,308	918	412	35	4,089	8,430	3,305
Rest of the world	486	9	590	-	183	637	274
Total	32,359	1,425	6,023	166	10,784	32,233	11,318

Source: DGIE, 2026 Q2

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.

Table 11 illustrates the total number of non-resident travellers to Rwanda by land. In the second quarter of 2026, the total number of non-resident arrivals by land was 220,809.

Table 11. Non-resident visitors to Rwanda by Land³ for 2026Q2

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	Visit	Transit
Asia	3,249	26	-	542	1,582	344
EAC	112,523	2,465	1,199	3,561	45,219	23,861
Europe	2,969	28	2	1,093	2,138	999
North America	1,226	16	6	725	1,257	257
Rest of Africa	6,494	390	6	1,797	3,123	2,803
Rest of the world	306	4	-	131	251	217
Total	126,767	2,929	1,213	7,849	53,570	28,481

Source: DGIE, 2026 Q2

3.2.2. Number of Rwandan Resident Travellers Abroad

Table 12 shows that, the total number of returning residents who travelled by air in the second quarter of 2026 was 53,904.

Table 12: Rwandan Resident Travellers by Air for 2026Q2

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	Visit
Asia	10,361	380	366	835	1,559
EAC	11,349	154	97	1,069	4,905
Europe	5,330	708	37	1,859	4,735
North America	1,416	205	8	510	2,190
Rest of Africa	3,291	194	17	627	1,470
Rest of the world	129	4	1	29	71
Total	31,876	1,644	527	4,929	14,928

Source: DGIE, 2026 Q2

Table 13 presents that, the total number of returning resident who travelled by land in the second quarter of 2026 was 276,416.

Table 13: Rwandan Resident travellers by land for 2026Q2

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	Visit
Asia	441	-	-	-	135
EAC	215,096	405	76	337	59,281
Europe	139	-	-	-	68
North America	44	-	-	-	16
Rest of Africa	277	-	-	2	99
Total	215,996	405	76	339	59,599

Source : DGIE, 2026 Q2

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.

CHAPTER 4. TRAVEL CREDITS AND DEBITS.

This chapter provides quarterly estimates of total travel expenditures for the first semester of 2026, covering 2026Q1 and 2026Q2. In 2026Q1 and 2026Q2, total travel credits amounted to 151.4 million USD and 161.8 million USD, respectively, while the total debits stood at 98.1 million USD and 99.7 million USD, respectively. In 2026 Q2, travellers using air transport mode generated 83.7% of credit transactions, compared to 76.4% for debit transactions.

In terms of purpose of travel, holiday travellers accounted for the largest share of travel credits, contributing 36.9%, followed by visitors travelling to visit friends and relatives (VFR) at 28.1%, and business travellers contributing 24.9%. On the debit side, business travellers contributed 49.1%, followed by VFR travellers at 20.6%, while education-related travellers contributed 19.0%.

4.1. Quarterly travel credits, debits and balances

Table 14 and Table 15 present the findings on travel credits and debits, disaggregated by purpose of travel, from 2025 to 2026.

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

Purpose	2025Q1	2025Q2	2025Q3	2025Q4	2026Q1	2026Q2
Business	19.7	23.8	29.6	26.2	22.7	40.2
Education	13.8	10.8	16.0	18.4	18.7	13.8
Health	0.6	1.6	1.3	0.7	0.9	0.9
Holiday	57.4	50.0	98.1	66.4	66.8	59.7
VFR	36.9	33.6	43.2	47.8	40.8	45.5
Transit	2.2	2.0	2.4	1.9	1.6	1.8
Total	130.7	121.7	190.6	161.5	151.4	161.8

Source: NISR, TES 2026

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

Purpose	2025Q1	2025Q2	2025Q3	2025Q4	2026Q1	2026Q2
Business	33.8	33.4	28.0	34.2	32.6	49.0
Education	18.5	17.2	23.1	20.4	28.6	18.9
Health	2.2	2.0	3.1	2.9	2.7	2.8
Holiday	6.2	10.9	9.1	11.3	7.0	8.6
VFR	23.0	25.7	26.8	27.1	27.1	20.5
Total	83.7	89.3	90.1	95.9	98.1	99.7

Source: NISR, TES 2026

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 second quarter of 2026, disaggregated by country groupings and purpose of travel, respectively.

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

Country grouping	2025Q1	2025Q2	2025Q3	2025Q4	2026Q1	2026Q2
Asia	9.1	8.2	13.8	10.7	10.2	11.7
EAC	13.6	17.0	31.5	18.6	16.8	22.2
Europe	25.7	18.4	38.2	26.2	31.1	27.7
North America	36.9	37.7	73.1	40.8	38.6	40.2
Rest of Africa	20.9	15.9	24.1	34.5	27.0	27.1
Rest of the world	4.0	3.9	9.9	5.8	4.5	6.4
Total	110.2	101.1	190.6	136.7	128.2	135.4

Source: NISR, TES 2026

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

Purpose	2025Q1	2025Q2	2025Q3	2025Q4	2026Q1	2026Q2
Business	16.9	20.4	25.2	21.5	18.4	33.1
Education	8.5	4.9	9.5	12.1	13.0	6.1
Health	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.2
Holiday	55.2	49.5	96.3	65.0	65.1	57.6
VFR	27.9	24.5	31.8	36.5	30.5	37.3
Transit	1.5	1.3	1.6	1.4	1.1	1.0
Total	110.2	101.1	164.7	136.7	128.2	135.4

Source: NISR, TES 2026

Tables 18 and 19 present the total expenditures of non-resident travellers to Rwanda in the second quarter of 2026, specifically, for credit of land passengers. Table 18 shows land credit by country grouping, while table 19 presents land credit, disaggregated by purpose of travel.

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

Country grouping	2025Q1	2025Q2	2025Q3	2025Q4	2026Q1	2026Q2
Asia	0.8	2.2	2.6	0.9	0.7	0.9
EAC	16.2	14.4	16.4	19.7	18.5	13.6
Europe	1.6	1.6	2.7	1.1	10.5	1.4
North America	0.5	0.9	1.6	1.6	2.8	2.1
Rest of Africa	1.3	1.5	2.4	1.5	2.7	8.3
Rest of the world	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	1.3	0.1
Total	20.4	20.7	25.9	24.9	23.3	26.4

Source: NISR, TES 2026

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

Purpose	2025Q1	2025Q2	2025Q3	2025Q4	2026Q1	2026Q2
Business	2.8	3.4	4.4	4.7	4.3	7.1
Education	5.3	6.0	6.5	6.2	5.7	7.7
Health	0.4	1.1	1.0	0.6	0.7	0.6
Holiday	2.2	0.5	1.8	1.4	1.8	2.1
Visit	9.0	9.0	11.4	11.3	0.5	8.2
Transit	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.6	10.3	0.8
Total	20.4	20.7	25.9	24.9	23.2	26.4

Source: NISR, TES 2026

4.1.2. Debits

Tables 20 and 21 illustrate the total amounts spent abroad by Rwandan residents for air travel debits. Table 20 disaggregates the amounts by country grouping, while Table 21 presents debits by purpose of travel.

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

Country grouping	2025Q1	2025Q2	2025Q3	2025Q4	2026Q1	2026Q2
Asia	2.8	2.3	2.8	2.7	2.8	17.3
EAC	39.4	47.4	45.2	53.9	50.3	13.1
Europe	4.4	3.5	3.5	3.1	3.9	26.0
North America	2.3	2.6	2.9	1.9	2.1	10.3
Rest of Africa	3.6	3.1	3.8	2.7	3.4	9.1
Rest of the world	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3
Total	52.7	59.1	58.4	64.4	62.8	76.2

Source: NISR, TES 2026

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

Purpose	2025Q1	2025Q2	2025Q3	2025Q4	2026Q1	2026Q2
Business	20.6	22.4	15.0	22.2	20.2	32.8
Education	12.7	10.8	19.3	14.7	21.2	17.6
Health	1.9	1.5	0.7	1.9	1.7	2.7
Holiday	6.1	10.7	9.0	10.9	6.7	8.5
VFR	11.5	13.7	14.3	14.6	12.9	14.6
Total	52.7	59.1	58.4	64.4	62.8	76.2

Source: NISR, TES 2026

Tables 22 and table 23 illustrate the total amounts spent abroad by returning residents for land travel debits. Table 22 disaggregates these amounts by country grouping, while Table 23 provides the breakdown by purpose of travel.

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

Country grouping	2025Q1	2025Q2	2025Q3	2025Q4	2026Q1	2026Q2
EAC	30.9	30.1	31.6	31.5	35.3	23.5
Rest of Africa	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Total	31.0	30.2	31.7	31.5	35.3	23.5

Source: NISR, TES 2026

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

Purpose	2025Q1	2025Q2	2025Q3	2025Q4	2026Q1	2026Q2
Business	13.2	11	13.0	12.0	12.4	16.2
Education	5.9	6.4	3.7	5.7	7.4	1.3
Health	0.3	0.5	2.3	1.0	1.0	0.0
Holiday	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.1
VFR	11.4	12	12.6	12.4	14.2	5.9
Total	31.0	30.2	31.7	31.5	35.3	23.5

Source: NISR, TES 2026

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APPENDIXES

APPENDIX A: 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 length 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.

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.

- **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 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.

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:
 - Number of nights
 - International exits via land borders
 - Number of travellers
 - 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:
 - Cases reporting no expenses in either of the different types of expenditure categories.
 - Records without the purpose of travel.
 - 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:
 - 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
 - For each transformed variable (and by air and land separately), values above 3 standard deviations on each tail of the distribution are trimmed.
 - 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.

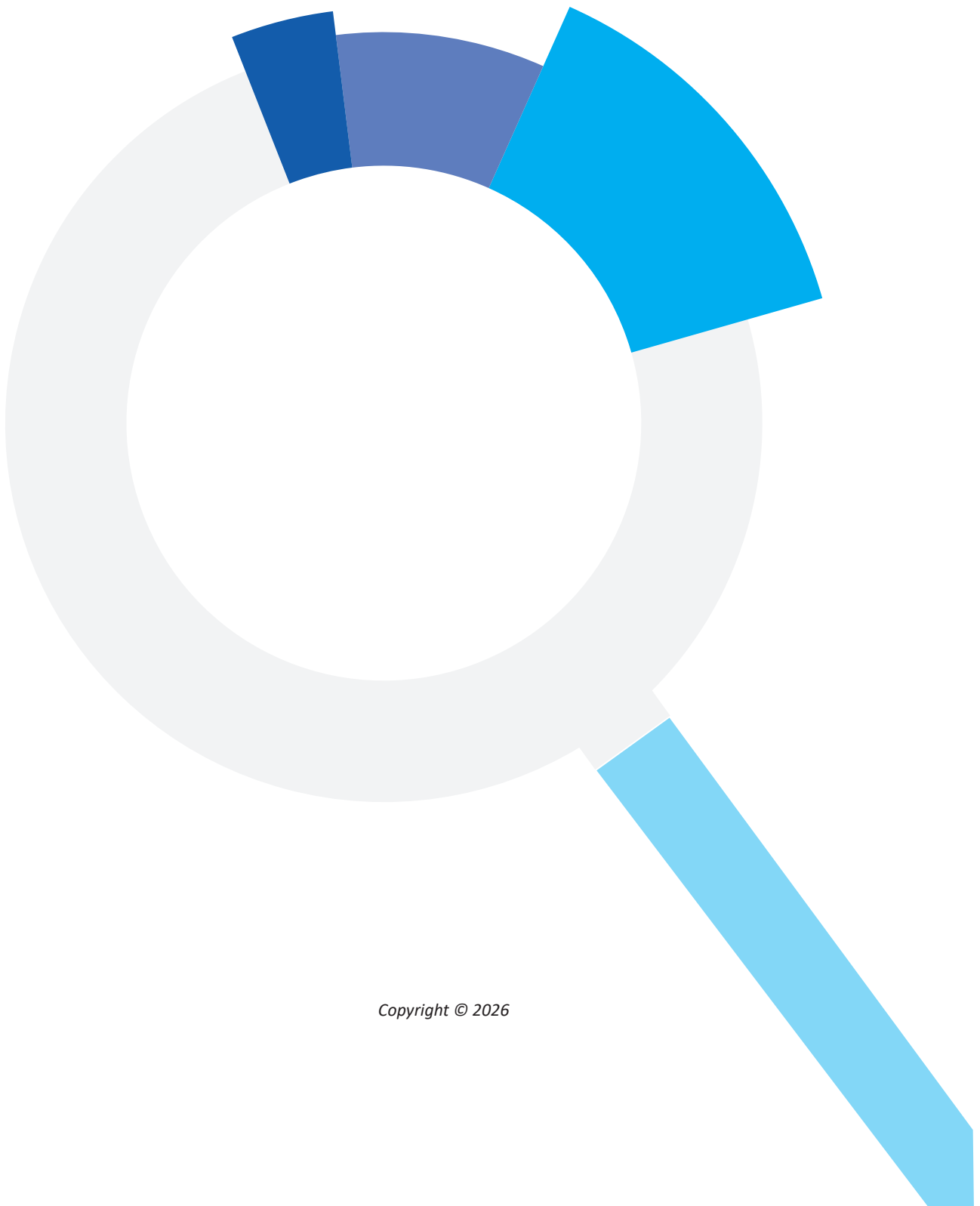
⁶ The distributions of expenses are positively skewed with a couple of outliers at the top and bunching of zero expenses at the bottom. This is done to have a more normal distribution which do not takes into account the zeros at the bottom.

APPENDIX C: Travel disclaimer

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

APPENDIX D: Staff involved in May – July 2026 TES Activities

NISR Technical Staff	Technical Members (NBR, RDB, and DGIE)
SIBOMANA Oscar	MBABAZI Jovia, NBR
NZASINGIZIMANA Tharcisse	MUKAMUHIRE Anitha, NBR
NSHIMIYIMANA Emile	NGOGA Eric, NBR
KATO Denis	RUGWIZA KAGABO Toussaint, NBR
NSENGIYUMVA Thomas	MUTONI Nadine, NBR
KABAGAMBE Hortance Nancy	MUVUNYI Yves, NBR
SHEMA KADJURA Abdulrahman	RWAYITARE TEBUKA Tricart, NBR MUTONI Brenda, NBR
NTUKANYAGWE Glorioso	MUTUYEYEUZU Alexandre, RDB
TUYISENGE Gady	MUNYAMPARA Janvier, DGIE GAHIMA Parfaite, DGIE
Survey and Fieldwork Coordination	Trainers of Enumerators
SIBOMANA Oscar	NSHIMIYIMANA Emile
NZASINGIZIMANA Tharcisse	NZASINGIZIMANA Tharcisse
KATO Denis	MBABAZI Jovia
	NSENGIYUMVA Thomas
	KABAGAMBE Hortance Nancy
Survey Logistics	Data Processing
HITIMANA Dieudonné	NDAYISHIMIYE Jean Bosco
NSENGIYUMVA Thomas	IRADUKUNDA Josue
MUTUYEYEUZU Alexandre	
MUTONI Brenda	
KABAGAMBE Hortance Nancy	
Report Writing	Data Analysis
KATO Denis	NSENGIYUMVA Thomas
KABAGAMBE Hortance Nancy	MUTUYEYEUZU Alexandre
MUTUYEYEUZU Alexandre	NZASINGIZIMANA Tharcisse
NSENGIYUMVA Thomas	
RUGWIZA KAGABO Toussaint	
SHEMA KADJURA Abdulrahman	
NGOGA Eric	
MUVUNYI Yves	
MUTONI Nadine	
NTUKANYAGWE Glorioso	
TUYISENGE Gady	
MUTONI Brenda	
GAHIMA Parfaite	
REALITE Jean Latis	
Report Layout Design	Report Review
Desire MUSHIMIYIMANA	SIBOMANA Oscar
Delphine KAGOYIRE	Dr. UWIMANA Annie
Promesse TWIZERIMANA	
Vital NKURUNZIZA	



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