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of Rwanda



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STATISTICS OF RWANDA

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Rwanda Directorate General
of Immigration and Emigration



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. The data collection covers the low season of travel (November to January) and the high season of travel (May to July). The results of the Travel Expenditure Survey (TES) provide an important source of information for compiling both 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 2025 and previous quarters' estimation results.

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

The methodology for estimating travel services consists of multiplying survey results (average daily expenditure and average duration of stay) by the total number of Rwandan resident travelers abroad and non-resident visitors to Rwanda. The DGIE provides an aggregated total number of Rwandan resident travelers abroad and non-resident visitors to Rwanda based on daily data on international migration movements.

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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Travel Expenditure Survey looks at how travelers spend their money. Goods and services acquired from Rwanda by non-Rwandan Residents during their visit to Rwanda are exports, whereas goods and services acquired from other countries by Rwandan residents during their visit abroad are imports.

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

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

As a result, this report primarily covers the findings from the travel expenditure survey, which were utilized to estimate travel services for 2025Q1 and 2025Q2 as well as estimation results of the previous periods. The survey summary results are as follows:

On average, non-Rwandan Residents traveling by land stayed in Rwanda for education (152 days) as the most purpose with the largest number of stays from Rest of Africa (293 days). Similarly, for air, non-residents mostly stayed on average in Rwanda for education (58 days) with the largest number of stays from Europe (79 days).

Alternatively, on average, Rwandan residents traveling by land stayed abroad for education (89 days) as the most purpose with the largest number of stays in EAC (89 days). Similarly, for air, where Rwandans mostly stayed abroad for education (280 days) with the largest number of stays in North America (403 days).

In 2025Q2, Rwanda exported travel services worth an estimated 121.7 million USD, according to this estimate, the expenditure per non-resident by air during their stay in Rwanda (101.1 million USD) with the most purpose being Holiday (49.5 million USD) of which 80.5 percent revenue are generated by Gorillas. North America representing the highest spending worth (37.7 million USD). While, the expenditure by land per non-resident during their stay in Rwanda (20.7 million USD) of which the highest by purpose being VFR (9.0 million USD) and the largest spending from EAC (14.4 million USD).

In 2025Q2, Rwanda imported travel services worth an estimated 89.3 million USD, according to this estimate, the expenditure per resident by air during their stay abroad is (59.1 million USD) with the most purpose being

Business (22.4 million USD) and the highest spending from EAC (47.4 million USD). Moreover, the residents travelling by land spent (30.2 million USD) of which the highest by purpose being VFR (12.0 USD) and the largest spending to EAC (30.1 million USD).

The results from this survey will help cater to a diverse range of tourist interests and enhance overall travel experiences. Also, it serves the National Accounts, Balance of payments and Tourism Satellite Account statistics according to the SNA 2008, BPM6 and IRTS 2008 respectively. In conclusion, policymakers, businesses, and other data users can rely on this report's results to make evidence-based decisions.

Table of Contents

PREFACE	3
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	4
TABLE OF CONTENT.....	6
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	7
LIST OF TABLES.....	8
CHAPTER 1. Methodology.....	9
1.1. Introduction.....	9
1.2. Sample size determination and selection.....	10
1.3. Classification used for travel services component.....	11
1.4. Number of respondents	12
CHAPTER 2. Results from the Travel Expenditure Survey	13
2.1. Export of travel services.....	13
2.1.1. Average length of stay per Non-Resident.....	13
2.1.2. Average daily expenditure per Non-Resident	14
2.2. Import of travel services.....	14
2.2.1. Average length of stay for Residents.....	14
2.2.2. Average daily expenditure per Resident.....	15
CHAPTER 3.ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE MIGRATION FLOWS.....	17
3.1. Introduction.....	17
3.2. Data used for estimating travel debit and credit	17
3.2.1. Number of Non-resident Visitors to Rwanda	17
3.2.2. Number of Rwandan Resident Travelers Abroad	18
CHAPTER 4.TRAVEL CREDITS AND DEBITS.....	19
4.1. Quarterly travel credits, debits and balances.....	19
4.1.1.Credits.....	19
4.2.2. Debits.....	21
REFERENCES.....	23
APPENDIXES	24

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

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: May–July 2025 TES respondents by mode of travel and residence.....	12
Table 2: Average length of stay in nights of non-resident visitors to Rwanda, Air	13
Table 3: Average length of stay of non-resident visitors to Rwanda, Land	13
Table 4: Average daily expenditure of non-resident visitors, by air (value in USD)	14
Table 5: Average daily expenditure of non-resident visitors, by land (value in USD)	14
Table 6: Average length of stay in nights of residents on their trip abroad, by air	15
Table 7: Average length of stay of residents on their trip abroad, by land.....	15
Table 8: Average daily expenditure per resident on their trip abroad, by air (value in USD)	15
Table 9: Average daily expenditure per resident abroad, by land (value in USD).....	16
Table 10. Non-resident visitors to Rwanda by Air for 2025Q2.....	17
Table 11. Non-resident visitors to Rwanda by Land for 2025Q2	18
Table 12: Rwandan Resident Travelers by Air for 2025Q2.....	18
Table 13: Rwandan Resident travelers by land for 2025Q2	18
Table 14. The total travel credit by the purpose of travel in million USD	19
Table 15. Total travel debit by the purpose of travel in million USD.....	19
Table 16: Total credit of air passengers by country groupings in million USD.....	20
Table 17: Total credit of air passengers by the purpose of travel in million USD	20
Table 18. Total credit of land passengers by country grouping in million USD	20
Table 19. Total credit of land passengers by the purpose of travel in million USD	21
Table 20. Total debit for air passengers by country grouping in million USD.....	21
Table 21. Total debit for air passengers by the purpose of travel in million USD	21
Table 22. Total debits for land passengers by region of travel in million USD	22
Table 23. Total debit for land passengers by the purpose of travel in million USD	22

CHAPTER 1. METHODOLOGY

1.1. Introduction

To improve the coverage and methodology for the compilation of the Balance of Payments (BOP), the National Accounts (NA) and Tourism Satellite Account, the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), in partnership with the National Bank of Rwanda (NBR), 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 during the low season and from May to July during the high season.

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

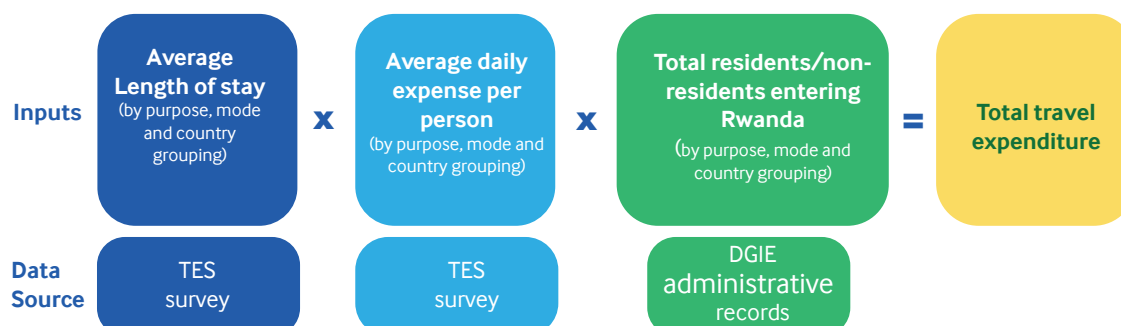
This report provides the travel estimates for second quarter of 2025, from the survey conducted from May to July 2025 and the estimates of the previous periods. In addition, this report highlights the methodology used to collect data on Rwanda's TES. A series of key concepts and definitions used in the 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 from migration in Rwanda, and Chapter 4 presents grossed-up results of total travel services (credits and debits) estimates from the first and second quarters of 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:

1. The TES estimate the average daily expenditure per person and the average length of stay for non-resident and resident travelers.
2. DGIE records total travelers 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.

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

1.2. Sample size determination and selection

The methodology employed for TES follows a two-stage process. In the first stage, the selection of borders is 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 Ponds Lourds. In the second stage, travelers at each border are screened based on their residence.

The screening of passengers is done to ensure only targeted travelers 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 travelers 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 travelers. 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.

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

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

1. Sample size for returning residents in a given three-month period of data collection:

- Population size of returning residents = 600,000
- Sample size = 5% of 600,000 = $0.05 * 600,000 = 30,000$

2. Sample size for outgoing non-residents in a given three-month period of data collection:

- Population size of outgoing 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

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

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

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

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–July 2025.

Table 1: May–July 2025 TES respondents by mode of travel and residence

— Kigali International Airport (KIA) — With DRC: ▪ Poids Lourds², Corniche³, Rusizi I, Rusizi II and Bugarama — With Tanzania: ▪ Rusumo — With Uganda: ▪ Cyanika, Gatuna, Kagitumba and Buziba		Mode of travel	May-July 2025
	Residents	Air	3,309
		Land	23,742
		Total	27,051
	Non-Residents	Air	3,035
		Land	28,971
		Total	32,006

Source: May–July 2025 TES | NISR

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

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

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

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

CHAPTER 2. SURVEY RESULTS

This chapter provides the key findings from the TES conducted between May - July 2025. 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 of non-resident visitors to Rwanda.

2.1.1. Average length of stay per Non-Resident

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

For air travelers, 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	7	13		9	1	14
EAC	5	73	20	8	1	7
Europe	11	79	1	8	1	13
North America	12	10	22	8	1	17
Rest of Africa	6	59	11	7	1	9
Rest of the world	6			5	1	15

Source: May-July 2025 TES | NISR

For Land travelers, Table 3 shows the average length of stay of non-resident travelers 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	10			6	1	9
EAC	1	132	6	3	1	6
Europe	10			5	1	14
North America				4	1	11
Rest of Africa	4	293		10	1	11
Rest of the world	2			4	1	7

Source: May-July 2025 TES | NISR

2.1.2. Average daily expenditure per Non-Resident

For air travelers, table 4 shows the daily average expenditure of non-resident travelers 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	137	38		107	82	71
EAC	114	88	94	114	74	61
Europe	126	43	60	131	77	78
North America	125	62	131	160	101	96
Rest of Africa	138	60	60	96	82	84
Rest of the world	146			203	62	151

Source: May-July 2025 TES | NISR

For land travelers, table 5 shows the daily average expenditure of non-resident travelers 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	87			110	45	60
EAC	16	18	41	36	16	11
Europe	92			122	78	54
North America				164	83	95
Rest of Africa	30	15		69	47	23
Rest of the world	10			183	21	23

Source: May-July 2025 TES | NISR

2.2. Import of travel services

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

2.2.1. Average length of stay for Residents

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

For air travelers, table 6 displays the average length of stay of resident travelers 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	333	48	10	14
EAC	8	88	17	9	9
Europe	12	315	39	20	22
North America	12	403		18	34
Rest of Africa	11	163		13	16
Rest of the world	26	135		17	24

Source: May-July 2025 TES | NISR

For land travelers, table 7 displays the average length of stay of resident travelers 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	6	89	46	5	10
Rest of Africa	1				26

Source: May-July 2025 TES | NISR

2.2.2. Average daily expenditure per Resident.

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

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

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

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

Source: May-July 2025 TES | NISR

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

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

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	VFR
EAC	9	15	17	29	8
Rest of Africa	6				9

Source: May-July 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 travelers entering or leaving Rwanda. These data are 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 travelers to Rwanda, in the second quarter of 2025, 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 for residents.

For air travelers, table 10 below shows that, in the second quarter of 2025, the total number of non-residents travelers to Rwanda by air was 88,296.

Table 10. Non-resident visitors to Rwanda by Air⁴ for 2025Q2

Country grouping	Business	Education	Gorilla	Health	Holiday	Visit	Transit
Asia	2,599	52	244	2	1,428	2,413	614
EAC	12,331	324	119	210	1,325	11,197	8,090
Europe	2,669	83	819	8	2,937	4,800	3,178
North America	1,169	81	3,440	22	1584	4,682	436
Rest of Africa	6,283	682	264	25	2,501	5,490	4,901
Rest of the world	215	1	354	0	283	312	129
Total 2025 Q2	25,266	1,223	5,240	267	10,058	28,894	17,348

Source: DGIE, 2025 Q2

For land travelers, Table 11 illustrates the total number of non-residents travelers to Rwanda by land. The total number of non-resident arrivals by land was 233,896 in the second quarter of 2025.

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

Table 11. Non-resident visitors to Rwanda by Land⁵ for 2025Q2

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	Visit	Transit
Asia	1465	11	42	89	1589	491
EAC	92,212	2,093	4,524	2,975	92,838	25,616
Europe	566	12	62	105	1,194	812
North America	157	1	11	28	797	426
Rest of Africa	1,000	225	35	45	1,064	2919
Rest of the world	82	2	5	14	249	140
Total 2025 Q2	95,482	2,344	4,679	3,256	97,731	30,404

Source: DGIE, 2025 Q2

3.2.2. Number of Rwandan Resident Travelers Abroad

For air travelers, Table 12 shows that, in the second quarter of 2025, the total number of returning residents by air was 58,888.

Table 12: Rwandan Resident Travelers by Air for 2025Q2

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	Visit
Asia	700	6	-	405	778
EAC	24,426	1,491	715	5,304	19,467
Europe	561	8	-	590	870
North America	280	3	3	267	417
Rest of Africa	864	7	7	501	1,104
Rest of the world	30	-	-	40	44
Total 2025 Q2	26,861	1,516	725	7,107	22,680

Source: DGIE, 2025 Q2

For land travelers, Table 13 shows that, in the second quarter of 2025, the total number of returning resident travelers by land was 366,722.

Table 13: Rwandan Resident travelers by land for 2025Q2

Country grouping	Business	Education	Health	Holiday	Visit
Asia	690	-	-	7	203
EAC	212,085	4,920	641	1,568	145,135
Europe	302	1	-	17	120
North America	40	-	-	2	68
Rest of Africa	637	1	-	11	238
Rest of the world	20	-	-	4	12
Total 2025 Q2	213,774	4,922	641	1,609	145,776

Source : DGIE, 2025 Q2

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

CHAPTER 4. TRAVEL CREDITS AND DEBITS

This chapter provides quarterly estimates of total travel expenditures for 2025Q1 and 2025Q2. In 2025Q1 and 2025Q2, the total travel credit was 130.7 million USD and 121.7 million USD, while the total debit stood at 83.7 million USD and 89.3 million USD respectively. In 2025 Q2, travelers using air transport mode generated 83.0 percent of credit transactions compared to 66.2 percent for debit transactions. Regarding the purpose of travel, holiday travelers contributed 41.1 percent, visitors of friends and relatives travelers contributed 27.6 percent while business travelers contributed 19.5 percent of travel credit. On the other hand, business travelers contributed 37.5 percent, visiting friends and relatives travelers contributed 28.8 percent while education travelers contributed 19.3 percent of travel debits.

4.1. Quarterly travel credits, debits and balances

4.1.1. Credits

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

Purpose	2023Q1	2023Q2	2023Q3	2023Q4	2024Q1	2024Q2	2024Q3	2024Q4	2025Q1	2025Q2
Business	29.2	33.4	38.9	34.4	25.9	28.7	24.8	17.8	19.7	23.8
Education	6.1	9.7	17.8	10.8	10.2	7.6	7.3	13.2	13.8	10.8
Health	0.5	0.7	1.4	0.7	1.0	0.8	0.3	0.8	0.6	1.6
Holiday	39.0	49.5	84.3	63.2	61.6	58.8	98.6	56.2	57.4	50.0
VFR	38.6	24.9	31.7	36.3	37.5	37.0	43.8	35.5	36.9	33.6
Transit	1.3	3.2	4.6	3.6	2.7	2.2	2.5	2.6	2.2	2.0
Total	114.7	121.4	178.7	149.0	138.9	135.1	177.3	126.1	130.7	121.7

Source: NISR, TES 2025

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

Purpose	2023Q1	2023Q2	2023Q3	2023Q4	2024Q1	2024Q2	2024Q3	2024Q4	2025Q1	2025Q2
Business	42.5	46.7	56.4	47.3	30.1	28.4	33.2	34.1	33.8	33.4
Education	2.1	1.2	3.7	16.8	20	7.1	24.3	13.7	18.5	17.2
Health	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.5	3.1	2.0	2.2	2.0
Holiday	8.3	10.8	15.7	20.5	10.9	11.7	7.8	11.4	6.2	10.9
VFR	14.5	17.8	23	22.5	23.2	34.4	35.6	26.8	23.0	25.7
Total	68.5	77.7	100.2	108.7	85.7	83.1	104.0	88.0	83.7	89.3

Source: NISR, TES 2025

For Credit by air, tables 16 and 17 shows the total expenditures for non-resident travelers to Rwanda by air in the second quarter of 2025 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	2025Q1	2025Q2
Asia	23.3	21.4	25.8	21.5	7.1	8.5	10.2	7.6	9.1	8.2
EAC	5.1	7.9	15.2	8.9	10.2	9.2	10.2	12.7	13.6	17.0
Europe	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.1	26.6	24.9	34.2	21.9	25.7	18.4
North America	37.1	48.3	80.9	58.7	35	44.4	69.3	32.5	36.9	37.7
Rest of Africa	29.5	12.5	17.2	23.1	22.9	20.2	22.5	23.4	20.9	15.9
Rest of the world	0.4	0.8	1.2	0.8	4.2	3.5	8.2	4.2	4.0	3.9
Total	95.5	91.2	140.7	113.1	106.0	110.7	154.6	102.3	110.2	101.1

Source: NISR, TES 2025

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

Purpose	2023Q1	2023Q2	2023Q3	2023Q4	2024Q1	2024Q2	2024Q3	2024Q4	2025Q1	2025Q2
Business	23.3	21.4	25.8	21.5	14	22.2	19.8	14.5	16.9	20.4
Education	5.1	7.9	15.2	8.9	7.8	2.9	3.4	7.9	8.5	4.9
Health	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.5
Holiday	37.1	48.3	80.9	58.7	58.3	55.8	97.0	53.2	55.2	49.5
VFR	29.5	12.5	17.2	23.1	25	29.0	33.2	24.9	27.9	24.5
Transit	0.4	0.8	1.2	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.6	1.5	1.3
Total	95.5	91.2	140.7	113.1	106	111.0	154.6	102.3	110.2	101.1

Source: NISR, TES 2025

For Credit by land, Tables 18 and 19 shows the total expenditures for non-resident travelers to Rwanda in the second quarter of 2025 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	2025Q1	2025Q2
Asia	0.3	0.6	1.7	4.3	3.5	1.2	1.1	0.6	0.8	2.2
EAC	16	28.3	30.4	27.5	25.8	16.7	14.5	19.4	16.2	14.4
Europe	1.7	0.6	2	2.3	1.8	2.2	2.3	1.6	1.6	1.6
North America	0.9	0.4	0.9	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.4	0.6	0.5	0.9
Rest of Africa	0.1	0.2	2	0.6	0.6	2.8	3.1	1.4	1.3	1.5
Rest of the world	0.2	0.3	0.9	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total	19.2	30.4	37.9	36	32.8	24.1	22.6	23.7	20.4	20.7

Source: NISR, TES 2025

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

Purpose	2023Q1	2023Q2	2023Q3	2023Q4	2024Q1	2024Q2	2024Q3	2024Q4	2025Q1	2025Q2
Business	5.9	12	13	12.9	11.9	6.5	5.0	3.3	2.8	3.4
Education	1	1.8	2.6	1.9	2.4	4.8	3.9	5.3	5.3	6.0
Health	0.4	0.5	1.1	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.2	0.6	0.4	1.1
Holiday	2	1.2	3.4	4.5	3.3	3.1	1.6	3.0	2.2	0.5
Visit	9.1	12.5	14.5	13.3	12.5	8	10.6	10.5	9.0	9.0
Transit	0.9	2.4	3.3	2.8	1.9	1.1	1.3	1.0	0.6	0.7
Total	19.3	30.4	37.9	36.0	32.9	24.2	22.6	23.7	20.4	20.7

Source: NISR, TES 2025

4.2.2. Debits

For debit by air, tables 20 and 21 illustrates 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	2025Q1	2025Q2
Asia	1.5	1.5	2	3.3	3.7	3.5	7.3	2.9	2.8	2.3
EAC	20.5	26.3	33	39.6	37.9	34.9	35.7	44.5	39.4	47.4
Europe	10.9	11.2	15.1	8.8	10	8.2	11.4	6.2	4.4	3.5
North America	5.2	4.8	7.6	3.3	4.5	4.8	8.3	2.0	2.3	2.6
Rest of Africa	1.6	1.9	2.7	3.1	3.8	4.7	6.6	3.5	3.6	3.1
Rest of the world	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2
Total	40	45.9	60.7	58.4	60.4	56.4	69.4	59.3	52.7	59.1

Source: NISR, TES 2025

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

Purpose	2023Q1	2023Q2	2023Q3	2023Q4	2024Q1	2024Q2	2024Q3	2024Q4	2025Q1	2025Q2
Business	18.0	20.1	22.8	18.7	18.5	18.2	14.5	24.4	20.6	22.4
Education	1.5	1.1	3.6	13.1	15.1	6.1	22.2	10.2	12.7	10.8
Health	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.3	2.9	1.8	1.9	1.5
Holiday	7.1	9.5	14.9	14.2	9.6	11.5	7.5	10.7	6.1	10.7
VFR	12.3	14.2	18.0	11.2	16.0	19.4	22.3	12.2	11.5	13.7
Total	39.9	46.0	60.6	58.3	60.3	56.5	69.4	59.3	52.7	59.1

Source: NISR, TES 2025

For debit by land, table 22 and table 23 illustrates the total amount spent abroad by returning residents via land by country groupings and purpose of travel. More survey findings are presented in Appendix E (TES 2025 Survey Results).

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

Country grouping	2023Q1	2023Q2	2023Q3	2023Q4	2024Q1	2024Q2	2024Q3	2024Q4	2025Q1	2025Q2
Asia				1.1	1.5					
EAC	28.6	31.6	39.5	49.1	17.6	23.5	34.5	28.7	30.9	30.1
Rest of Africa				0.2	6.2	3.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total	28.6	31.6	39.5	50.4	25.3	26.6	34.5	28.8	31.0	30.2

Source: NISR, TES 2025

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

Purpose	2023Q1	2023Q2	2023Q3	2023Q4	2024Q1	2024Q2	2024Q3	2024Q4	2025Q1	2025Q2
Business	24.5	26.6	33.5	28.6	11.6	10.2	18.7	9.8	13.2	11
Education	0.6	0.1	0.1	3.8	4.9	1.0	2.1	3.5	5.9	6.4
Health	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.5
Holiday	1.3	1.2	0.8	6.3	1.3	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.1	0.2
VFR	2.2	3.6	5.0	11.3	7.2	15.0	13.3	14.7	11.4	12
Total	28.7	31.6	39.5	50.5	25.4	26.6	34.5	28.8	31.0	30.2

Source: NISR, TES 2025

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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 factual 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-residents visitors:** A non-resident visitor is a person who is a permanent resident in another country other than Rwanda. This includes foreigners that stay abroad and Rwandan passport holders (or nationals) who have been living and/or working abroad (diaspora).⁶ Country of residence is therefore used to derive country grouping in the non-resident samples.
- 4. Rwandan residents:** A Rwandan resident is a person who is a permanent resident⁷ 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 as Rwandan residents.
- 5. Country visited:** A country visited by a traveller that is different from his resident country. When a resident of Rwanda has visited more than one country, the entire visit, expenditure and stay is allocated to the country where the resident spent most time of his/her travel. Although information is collected at the country level, estimates in this report are aggregated at the regional level. The country visited is used to derive country grouping categories in the resident samples.
- 6. Purpose of travel:** Purpose of travel is the main reason why a person is travelling. The main purposes of travel are Business (including missions and conferences), holidays, visiting friends and relatives, education, and health. Transits are also considered as a purpose of travel exclusively for non-residents transiting through Rwanda. Miscellaneous/other purposes such as attending sporting or religious events are allocated to one of the five main categories mentioned above.
- 7. Average daily expenditure per person:** This is defined as the sum of all expenses divided by the number of nights and number of travelers 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.

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

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

- 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 travelers). 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 travelers). These include amounts paid for the trip by other non- residents (such as an employer), excluding the cost of international flights. In addition, travel expenditure paid before arriving (e.g. such as part of a package or independently arranged) is also collected and combined with additional the expenditures made while being in Rwanda to have the total expenditure.
- 8. Average length of stay:** This is defined as the average number of nights spent by a traveller from a specific country grouping and with a specific purpose of travel.
- 9. Country groupings (geographical areas):**
- **Asia:** All countries in Asia plus the Middle East countries.
 - **EAC:** the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republics of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, and Tanzania.
 - **Rest of Africa:** All non-EAC countries.
 - **Europe:** All European countries.
 - **North America:** Includes United States and Canada.
 - **Rest of World:** Central and South America, Australia and New Zealand, and other Oceania countries and Pacific Islands.
- 10. Current-dollar estimates** are valued in the prices of the period when the transactions occurred, that is, at "market value." Also referred to as "nominal estimates" or as "current-price estimates."
- 11. Exclusions**
- a. Expenditure on goods for sale since are declared in customs and accounted in merchandise goods.
 - b. Expenditure on international transportation, including in international passenger services survey.
 - c. Travelers interviewed reported no expenses.
 - d. Travelers interviewed who report stays of more than 90 days (apart from education and health purposes) were excluded from the analysis on this report.
 - e. Day-visits (that is trips that do not involve overnight stay) are included in the survey, but were recoded as 1 night during fieldwork.
 - f. Border community travelers are not included in the survey.

APPENDIX B: Data cleaning procedure

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

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

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

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 2025 TES

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