



TOURISM SECTOR AS A CONTRIBUTOR FOR DEVELOPMENT A STUDY ON AFRICAN COUNTRY MAURITIUS

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ABSTRACT

This article discusses the current status of tourism industry and its significance on employment and gross domestic products of Mauritius. The study reveal that tourism is one of the thriving industries in Mauritius. It is recognized for its role in transforming the economy and improving the livelihoods of rural communities. The country's tourist attractions include sandy beaches lakes, historical places, traditional areas and national parks. Mauritius has a diverse landscape, culture, flora and fauna. The beauty of Mauritius is beyond words. Mauritius is a dreamland for tourists. There are many opportunities for hiking, climbing and nature walks. Mauritius's adventure tourism, religious tourism and sports tourism are promising. Nature tourism is beneficial to county's exports, international trade, employment and poverty reduction. Arrival of tourist and revenue from the industry were badly affected during the corona pandemic. Arrival of tourist directly affected GDP of Mauritius. Tourism sector contribute nearly 15% of total economy of the country. Its direct contribution to GDP was 6.3% in 2022. In 2022, it contributed 12.7% of the total gross domestic product. The total employment potential of tourism services was 14.9% of total jobs in 2022. The tourism sector faces many challenges. However, habitat loss, large numbers of tourists, and wildlife decline pose challenges to the economy. The Ministry of Tourism has implemented various policies to reduce these challenges and develop tourism in the country.

Keywords: Hotels, Lakes, National Reserve, Port Louis, Sea beach, and Tourism industry.

INTRODUCTION

Industries and enterprises provide goods and services to travellers. It is called tourism industry. Tourism provides employment opportunities to many people. The global economy relies on tourism to create jobs and income. Tourism, also known as business travel, is the travel of people to other parts of the country or around the world for leisure, social or business purposes. The transportation sector is closely related to the hotel sector. The components of any trip are activities, places, accommodation, tours and tourists (Sarkar, 2024). Tourism provides income, education and employment. The father of travel is Thomas

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Cook. Despite occasional stress, international tourism has provided a strong and dynamic economy with almost no interruption in growth. African tourism has proven to be a large and fast-growing industry, with moderate growth from 1995 to 2019. Economic development in Africa follows the principle of sustainability and strikes a balance between financial, cultural and environmental costs. Africa has become a popular destination for tourism, offering a unique and diverse African experience, a commitment to economic development and regional integration, and the participation of businesses that contribute to the health of the African people. Travel and tourism continue to contribute to the lives of millions of people by stimulating growth, creating jobs, reducing poverty, and promoting development and resilience. With the global coronavirus pandemic, the economy has been hit the hardest, with mass lockdowns forcing countries to close their borders and restrict all national and international travel. Intra-state travel is also being restricted, crippling the entire tourism industry (Sarkar, 2025).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Durbarry (2004) focuses on the success story of small businesses in Mauritius. Although developed countries continue to make efforts to increase exports, this strategy generally contributes little foreign exchange to the balance of payments. The export of non-traditional goods and services is also increasing. Prayag et al. (2010) highlighted the impact on tourism policy, hotel development and tourism management. This study assessed the hotel development impact on tourism. Hotel sector increases accommodation of the travellers. Sustainable business development is important for economy because tourism is often the mainstay of their business. Naidoo (2010) believes that tourist satisfaction is one of the most important concerns for competitive destinations because it influences tourists' choice of holiday destination and future travel decisions. Therefore, the satisfaction of tourists is one of the most researched topics in tourism due to its influence on arrival of tourist.

Seetanah et al. (2011) examined role of infrastructure in tourism development. The research results show that tourists from Europe/America and Asia, have vital roles in Mauritius. Tourism infrastructure, visitor income, distance and relative cost are key factors in balancing tourism demand. Kassean and Gassita (2013) provide a good understanding of why travellers choose to travel to remote destinations. Rest and relaxation are the strongest motivations for



visiting Mauritius. Sibaluk et al. (2015) examined the economic development of Mauritius. Mauritius is often referred to as a beach resort for hedonistic tourists focusing on the tourism industry. Tourism industry provides economic benefits. This study describes the characteristics of the MICE market in the country.

Pudaruth (2018) confirms that progress has been made in diversifying cultural tourism despite the urgent need for Mauritian tourists to increase income, influence the beach tourism season and increase the competitiveness and attractiveness of the place. Mahadew and Appadoo (2018) identified instructions for refining tourism in Mauritius. Tourist in peak period should be managed properly. Accordingly, Chummun and Mathithibane (2020), Mauritius was greatly affected by the pandemic, with many people losing their jobs, including the negative effects on health and safety. Gunder (2021) investigated the link between tourism development and economic growth of Mauritius. Economy of the nation depends on the revenue of tourism sector. Government of Mauritius trying to diversify the economy, but still tourism is the vital sector for the economy.

Therefore, from the above analysis we can conclude that Mauritius is a beautiful country. It has more potential in the tourism industry. Tourism industry has many challenges. Majority of the reports discussed the current status of the tourism industry in Mauritius. Few reports discussed the economic perspectives of the tourism industry of Mauritius.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the paper are:

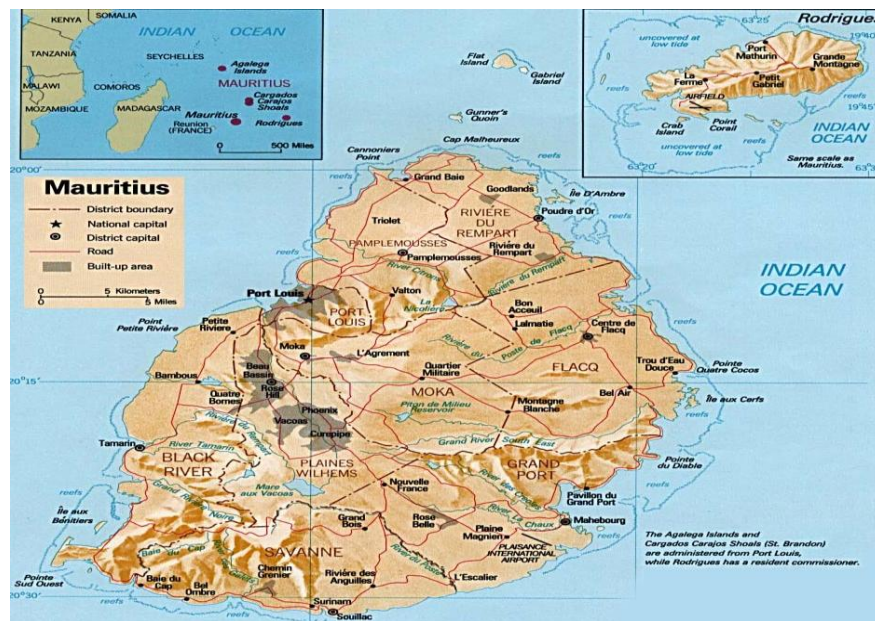
- (a) To study the status and prospects of the tourism industry in Mauritius.
- (b) To examine the revenue formation through tourism industry in Mauritius.
- (c) To analyse challenges and government policies of the tourism industry in Mauritius.

THE STUDY AREA

Mauritius is an island country. It is situated in Indian Ocean, east of Madagascar. Its total area is 2,040 square kilometres. It is located in Africa continent. It is located 800 kilometers far away from the eastern coast of Madagascar. Rodrigues (109 km²) and Mauritius (1865 km²) are the main islands. There are nine districts in Mauritius Island. French island of Reunion is the nearest neighbour. Port Louis is the capital of Mauritius. English, Mauritian Creole and French are the major languages. Indian and Creole are the major ethnic groups.



Hinduism and Christianity are the main religion. Mauritius got Independence from the United Kingdom on 12 March 1968. As per 2019 estimate, total population in the country is 1,265,475, and density of population 618.24/km². Mauritian rupee is the national currency. Accordingly, 2024, GDP (nominal) and GDP (PPP) are respectively \$16.359 billion, and \$40.468 billion. Nominal per capita income of the people is \$12,973.



Source: <https://www.geographicguide.com/africa-maps/mauritius.htm>

METHODS AND MATERIALS

Hypothesis

On the basis of the objectives of the paper, we have prepared the following hypothesis-

H₀₁: There is no impact of the corona pandemic on the arrival of tourist in Mauritius.

H_{1a}: There is an impact of the corona pandemic on the arrival of tourist in Mauritius.

H₀₂: There is no relationship between international tourist arrival and GDP of Mauritius.

H_{1b}: There is a relationship between international tourist arrival and GDP of Mauritius.

Designs and Approach

This study is descriptive in design. Author has utilized qualitative and quantitative approaches. Secondary data for the study has been collected from a report of the Ministry of Tourism, Government of Mauritius, report of World Travel & Tourism Council, Handbook of Statistical Data on Tourism (2023), and research papers. To discuss the travel and tourism



industry in general and economic perspectives in particular, descriptive analysis, content text analysis, and regression analysis have been performed.

Method of Analysis

The simple regression is based on two variables. They are gross domestic products and arrival of tourists in Mauritius. Gross domestic products are the dependent variable and arrivals of tourists is the independent variable. Regression analysis is calculated on information of gross domestic products and arrival of tourist in Mauritius during 2010-2019.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

(a) Status and Prospects of Tourism Industry in Mauritius

Mauritius is well-known for its tourism industry. Tourism has a key role in the economy. The island has a pleasant climate, warm water, beaches, hot weather, wildlife and many races and ethnic groups. The Morne Cultural Landscape and Apravasi Ghat are two UNESCO world heritage sites. The Morne Brabant Peninsula is located on the western side of the country. There are many caves and ledges in the mountain. It has the historical perspectives of slavery during the British colonial period. The first British building on the state's command was Apravasi Ghat. The Immigration Office is located in Port Louis. Mauritius has become a prime destination for tourism, printing, textile, and financial services. Information and communication technology, seafood, accommodation and infrastructure, healthcare, renewable energy and education have emerged as key sectors that have attracted major investment from local and foreign investors. There are many commercial areas in Mauritius and the government plan to develop the maritime sector in 2012.

Table 1: Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024 of East and Southern African Countries

Rank	Economy	Score	Change since 2019		Diff. from TTDI Avg. (%)
			Rank	Score	
55	South Africa	3.99	7	3.4%	0.7%
57	Mauritius	3.98	-4	-0.7%	0.3%
75	Botswana	3.71	6	2.5%	-6.5%
77	Kenya	3.68	-1	0.1%	-7.1%



81	Tanzania	3.65	7	4.5%	-7.9%
93	Rwanda	3.45	6	2.6%	-12.9%
95	Namibia	3.45	-8	-1.7%	-13.0%
104	Zambia	3.34	-2	1.4%	-15.7%
110	Zimbabwe	3.19	0	2.5%	-19.6%
115	Malawi	3.06	0	2.8%	-22.8%
116	Angola	3.05	-2	1.3%	-22.9%

Source: https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Travel_and_Tourism_Development_Index_2024.pdf

Table 1 discusses the Travel & Tourism Development Index of east and southern African countries. It has been found that South Africa has the highest rank among the countries in the region, followed by Mauritius, Botswana, and Kenya. Tourism in Mauritius is a major sector of the economy that strives to provide quality facilities and services to both citizens and tourists. It is a tool for economic development in terms of job creation, a good standard of living and a source of foreign exchange. Tourism further enhances international relations through the marriage of cultures and other forms of interaction. Many Mauritian have met their life partners through travel. Tourism therefore plays an important role in international relations, cultural and ethnic understanding and tolerance.

Table 2: Global Peace Index of the African Countries

Rank	Country	Score	Rank	Country	Score
22	Mauritius	1.577	65	Tanzania	1.987
44	Madagascar	1.838	66	Sierra Leone	1.993
50	Botswana	1.863	69	Liberia	2.025
55	Ghana	1.938	72	Angola	2.043
57	Zambia	1.948	79	Malawi	2.063
62	Namibia	1.972	82	The Gambia	2.079

Source: <https://www.economicsandpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/GPI-2024-web.pdf>

Table 2 discussed Global Peace Index of African countries. The Global Peace Index is a report by the Australian non-governmental organization Institute for Economics and Peace that measures the relative well-being of countries and regions. Ten broad indicators measure human security and safety. They claim that crime is low, violence is low and severe, relations with neighbouring countries are good, the situation is stable, and a small percentage of the



population is internally displaced. It has found from table that Mauritius is most peaceful country in the African continent, followed by Madagascar and Botswana. Peace and security is a vital component for the growth of the tourism industry.

Table 3: The main tourist generating countries by rank in Mauritius

Country of residence	Rank					Mean Rank
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	
France	1	1	1	1	1	1
United Kingdom	2	2	2	4	2	2
Germany	4	3	3	2	4	3
Reunion Island	3	5	6	3	3	4
South Africa	5	4	4	5	5	5
India	6	6	11	6	6	6
Switzerland	7	7	5	8	8	7
Italy	8	8	10	7	9	8
Saudi Arabia	9	9	9	14	10	9
Austria	10	11	8	9	12	10
Belgium	12	10	7	21	13	11
China	24	33	29	13	7	12
Czech Republic	15	13	13	10	16	13
Australia	11	22	33	16	11	14
Malagasy Republic	13	15	23	19	15	15

Source: Handbook of Statistical Data on Tourism 2023, Vol. 43, Ministry of Tourism, Republic of Mauritius p.

Table 3 lists the major countries of tourists to Mauritius. Table shows that majority tourists came from France, England, Germany, Reunion, South Africa and India. Mauritius is a tropical country in the Indian Ocean, known for its beautiful beaches, lagoons, waterfalls and mountains. The Black Valley National Park, Monde La Monae Beach, Sucre Adventure Park, Chimaera Waterfall and Mont Choisy Beach are the main tourist attractions. There are many things to do on the island, including sunrise yoga, deep sea fishing at Rivire Noise, tasting food inspired by the island's diverse communities and taking a "Play in the Village" walk with local tips.

Table 4: Tourist arrivals by mode of travel during periodin Mauritius



Year	Tourist arrivals			Tourist nights spent during period	Tourism Earnings*	Tourism Earnings**
	Air	Sea	Total			
2010	911,179	23,648	934,827	9,336,446	39,456	0.828
2011	939,595	25,047	964,642	9,494,297	42,717	0.897
2012	948,511	16,930	965,441	10,043,683	44,378	0.931
2013	5 979,688	12,815	992,503	10,675,598	40,557	0.851
2014	1,034,998	3,336	1,038,334	11,266,751	44,304	0.930
2015	1,131,827	19,425	1,151,252	12,049,901	50,191	1.054
2016	1,246,862	28,365	1,275,227	13,117,907	55,867	1.173
2017	1,312,295	29,565	1,341,860	13,640,751	60,262	1.265
2018	1,359,688	39,720	1,399,408	14,296,274	64,037	1.344
2019	1,338,235	45,253	1,383,488	14,465,865	63,107	1.325
2020	279,325	29,655	308,980	4,485,257	17,664	0.370
2021	178,733	1,047	179,780	2,168,241	15,253	0.320
2022	990,099	7,191	997,290	11,363,042	64,845	1.361
2023	1,275,263	20,147	1,295,410	14,384,016	85,993	1.850

Source: Handbook of Statistical Data on Tourism 2023, Vol. 43, Ministry of Tourism, Republic of Mauritius, p.29, Note: *Tourism Earnings in Mauritius Million Rupees. **Tourism Earnings in Billion USD.

Table 4 shows the number of visitors to Mauritius by tourism season. The table reveals that visitors have increased since 2010 but decreased in 2020 due to the coronavirus. While the number of tourists was 934 thousand in 2010, it was 1.383 thousand in 2019, but declined to 308 thousand in 2020 and only 179 thousand in 2021. Corona pandemic was the main reason for the decline of tourist number. Lockdowns and travel restrictions hindered arrival of tourist in the country. Therefore, *null hypothesis 1 should be rejected and it should be confirmed that the coronavirus has an effect on arrival of tourists in Mauritius*. Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of people coming to nightlife and the income from tourism also decreased during this period. In 2010, the income from tourism was 39.456 million Mauritius rupees, and in 2021 it was 15,253 million Mauritius rupees.

Travellers can easily reach Mauritius by air or sea. Air transportation is an easy way to reach the country. Flight connectivity is available to Port Louis from cities of numerous countries. Air Mauritius, Emirates, British Airways, Edelweiss, Corsair, Air Austral, Air Seychelles and South African Airways are the prominent airlines connected with the capital. The most popular airports are Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport and Plains Coral



Airport. In Mauritius, travellers can find submarine cables, ships and ports. Port Louis is located at the intersection of four oceans: Asia, Africa, Australia and Europe. The second largest port of the country is located in Rodrigues. The capital of Mauritius is Port Louis. Luxury cruise ships depart from ports in South Africa and Reunion Island.

Table 5: Percentage distribution of tourist arrivals of residence in Mauritius

Continent	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Europe	64.4	67.6	81.1	67.2	60.4	58.9	58.1	57.6	54.9	55.0
Africa	22.6	20.8	9.6	19.1	22.5	22.3	22.5	22.9	24.7	26.4
Asia	9.5	9.1	7.5	10.5	13.7	15.3	15.8	16.3	17.2	15.2
Oceania	1.6	0.8	0.2	1.1	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.8
America	1.8	1.7	1.4	2.1	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.5	1.6	1.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Handbook of Statistical Data on Tourism 2023, Vol. 43, Ministry of Tourism, Republic of Mauritius p. 10-12.

Table 5 shows the percentage of tourists staying in Mauritius. According to the table, the vast majority of tourists visiting Mauritius come from Europe, followed by African and Asian countries. In 2014, European tourists accounted for 55 percent of total tourist arrivals, and this rate was expected to reach 64.4 percent by 2023. It has beautiful beaches, diverse people and delicious food. The islands are a popular travel destination for foreigners due to their clean beaches, lush mountains and beautiful landscapes such as coral reefs. The region's magnificent landscapes attract nature lovers and photographers. Hiking in national parks with local guides, climbing mountains, tasting the cuisine of different island communities and learning yoga at sunrise are all unique experiences for the islands. The best time to visit is between May and December. The island is safe year-round and a great place for beach lovers.

Table 6: Percentage distribution of tourist arrivals by month of arrival in Mauritius

Month	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
January	8.3	4.0	0.7	44.5	8.8	8.6	9.3	9.3	9.0	9.3
February	8.3	5.3	0.7	36.1	8.4	8.3	7.8	7.9	7.9	7.6
March	8.2	6.6	0.2	18.1	8.3	8.6	8.2	8.5	8.4	8.5
April	8.4	8.4	0.0	0.0	7.8	7.5	8.3	7.2	7.8	8.5
May	7.7	7.1	0.1	0.0	7.0	7.2	7.2	7.4	7.6	7.6



June	6.3	6.3	0.2	0.0	6.7	6.0	5.8	5.6	5.7	5.8
July	8.3	9.4	0.7	0.0	8.3	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.3	7.9
August	7.6	8.7	1.4	0.1	7.8	7.8	7.5	7.4	7.8	7.6
September	7.6	8.1	1.4	0.1	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.3	7.2
October	9.7	11.8	30.3	0.4	9.3	9.6	9.7	10.2	9.5	9.8
November	9.2	10.7	36.7	0.4	9.3	9.5	9.1	9.1	9.2	8.8
December	11.5	13.5	27.8	0.3	11.0	11.3	11.6	11.6	11.5	11.6

Source: Handbook of Statistical Data on Tourism 2023, Vol. 43, 4. Ministry of Tourism, Republic of Mauritius.

Table 6 shows the percentage of tourists coming in each month in Mauritius. The table shows that the best times to visit Mauritius are May and December. July, August, December and January are the most popular holiday months. Housing prices are usually higher during this period. April is a hot and humid month, ideal for sun seekers. The islands are more crowded during the Easter holidays. There are many beaches in Mauritius. Blue Bay Beach, Belle Mare Beach, Mont Choisy Beach, Mont Morne Beach and Flic-en-Flac are the most popular beaches for tourists. Blue Bay Beach is a popular beach in the southeast with its white sand, blue water and coral reefs. It has marine park rich in marine life, including colourful fish and turtles. Belle Mare Beach is a long and wide beach on the east coast with white sand and cool waters. Although popular with families and holidaymakers, there are still places to stay.

Mont Choisy Beach is the longest beach on the island and stretches from Trou aux Biches to Pointe aux Canonnières on the north coast. It is the most popular beach but is usually not crowded. Morne Hills Beach is a beautiful beach with white coral sand and turquoise water in the southwest of the island. It is famous for windsurfing and kitesurfing and also has an important history as a refuge for freed slaves. Flic-en-Flac is a long beach with a lagoon protected by coral reefs, ideal for swimming and snorkelling. There are beaches to the north and beautiful spots to the south.

Table 7: Percentage distribution of tourist arrivals by purpose of visit in Mauritius

Purpose of visit	2023	2018	2017	2016	2015	2013	2012
Leisure/Recreation/Holiday	94.7	92.4	92.7	93.2	92.1	88.7	88.2
Business/Seminar/Official Mission	0.9	2.7	3.3	2.6	2.6	4.9	5.4
Visiting friends/relatives	3.1	1.4	1.0	0.9	2.1	2.5	3.3
Other	1.2	3.5	3.0	3.3	3.3	3.9	3.1
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0



Source: Handbook of Statistical Data on Tourism 2023, Vol. 43, Ministry of Tourism, Republic of Mauritius

Table 7 shows the percentage of tourists visiting Mauritius by purpose of visit. According to the table, most tourists come to Mauritius for rest/vacation/relaxation. People also come here for business trips, seminars, master classes, visiting friends and relatives, etc. Lanor National Park, Bras d'Or National Park and Islet National Park are national parks in Mauritius. Black River Canyon National Park, established in 1994, is the oldest and most visited park in the country. The park covers a total area of 67.54 square kilometers and includes wetlands, dry forests, and tropical rainforests. Visitor facilities include two information centers, restaurants, and 96 kilometers of hiking trails. Bras d'Eau National Park is located in the northeast of the island. The park covers an area of 4.97 square kilometres. It was founded in 2011. Most of the big brands have disappeared. However, the park is still home to many rare and exotic bird species. The park is home to endemic birds such as the Mauritius grey-eyed owl, the Mauritius cuckoo, and the Mauritius paradise flycatcher. The park has four small lakes: Mare chevrettes, Mare maun, and Mare Coq des bois. Lake Sasser is the largest lake. There are two trails in the park, Mars-Sassel and Coc de Bois. The Mares-Sassel trail is 6.6 km long. There are picnic areas with wooden tables and road signs in the forest.

Table 8: Percentage of tourist arrivals by type of accommodation in Mauritius

Type of accommodation	2023	2018	2017	2016	2015	2013	2012
Hotel	77.0	78.2	79.6	81.2	82.3	80.3	75.1
Tourist residence	12.8	10.8	8.5	7.3	8.3	6.5	9.7
With friends/relatives	6.7	5.3	5.8	5.5	5.5	6.2	9.2
Guest House	2.2	4.8	5.0	4.8	2.9	5.4	5.4
Own villas / houses bungalows / IRS	0.2	0.4	0.8	0.6	0.6	1.0	-
Other	1.0	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.5
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Handbook of Statistical Data on Tourism 2023, Vol. 43, Ministry of Tourism, Republic of Mauritius.

Table 8 shows the distribution of tourists coming to Mauritius according to accommodation types. According to the table, the majority of tourists stay in hotels, while holidaymakers and tourists staying at friends'/relatives' houses are in the second place. The number of tourists staying in hotels, motels, bungalows/IRS is quite low. Mauritius is an ideal island for those who love fun and adventure. The nation has five popular mountains. They are Moka, Blackwater, Savannah, Zhushan, and Dagan Mountain. Most of the mountains can be explored on foot or by hiking. Hiking in the mountains gives a 360-degree view of the entire



island. With its magnificent landscapes and wide horizons, Mauritius is a great destination for nature lovers and those who want to explore the island's mountains, rivers, valleys, forests, and jungles. Hush forests, majestic mountains, magnificent waterfalls, beautiful rivers, numerous bird species, places of hiking and trekking are the unique features of Mauritius. Black River Peak is the highest peak that located in Heihe Mountain. Travellers can see the paranormal view of Port Louis from Mount Haozhi Mountain.

Table 9: Seasonal index of Tourist Arrivals in Mauritius

Month of arrival	2023	2022	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
January	100	48	106	104	111	111	108	111
February	85	63	100	99	94	95	95	91
March	98	79	99	103	99	102	101	102
April	101	101	94	90	100	87	94	102
May	93	85	84	87	86	89	91	91
June	76	76	80	72	70	68	68	70
July	100	113	100	99	100	102	100	95
August	92	104	93	94	90	89	93	91
September	91	98	87	88	86	86	88	86
October	116	141	112	115	116	123	144	117
November	111	129	112	113	109	109	111	105
December	138	162	132	136	139	139	138	140
Range	62	114	52	63	69	72	70	70

Source: Handbook of Statistical Data on Tourism 2023, 43, Ministry of Tourism, Republic of Mauritius, p. 6.

Table 9 shows the seasonal index of tourists visiting Mauritius. The study found that the highest tourist density months were October to January. Mauritius has many water bodies, including artificial reservoirs, two natural lakes, rivers and streams. Lake Vacoas is the main source of water for the island, providing water for daily life. Lake Marou Vacoas is the largest lake that located on the western side of the island, William. Trou Canaca, Grand Bassin and Trou aux Cerfs are large craters located in the center of the island. The five largest lakes are Piton du Milieu, La Nicolliere, Marais Longue, La Ferme and Marais aux Bacoas. The Black River and the Dan River are the two main rivers that provide important sources of electricity. The Pointe d'Esny wetlands is mangrove forest. The Blue Bay Marine Park is a diverse aquatic ecosystem.



Table10:Percentage monthly tourist arrivals by country of residence, Mauritius, 2023

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Europe	65.2	77.1	65.5	69.6	58.4	53.0	55.8	59.4	63.1	69.1	75.4	59.7	64.4
Africa	26.4	13.6	22.9	18.8	25.7	22.0	27.2	24.0	21.6	21.8	14.0	30.0	22.6
Asia	5.6	6.8	7.9	8.4	12.6	20.8	13.3	13.2	11.2	6.1	7.0	6.4	9.5
Oceania	1.2	1.0	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.8	1.6	1.7	2.2	1.6	1.6	1.9	1.6
America	1.6	1.4	2.0	1.4	1.7	2.5	2.1	1.7	1.8	1.4	1.9	1.9	1.8
ALL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Handbook of Statistical Data on Tourism 2023, 43, Ministry of Tourism, Republic of Mauritius, 16-18.

Table 10 discusses the share of tourists coming to Mauritius from multiple continents. According to the table, the largest number of tourists came from Europe, followed by Africa and Asia. The smallest number of tourists came from the United States, followed by Oceania. Mauritius is also religiously diversified. Hinduism is the main religion in Mauritius, with about 52% of the population practicing Hinduism. Christians make up 28% of the population (26% Catholics and 2% Protestants). Muslims make up 16.6% of the total population. Mauritius has several unique historical places of worship that reflect its diversity. Some of the famous places of worship are Juma Mosque, Church of St. John the Evangelist, Temple of Guandi, St. Louis Catholic Church, ArulmiguSokalingumMinachi Amen Thirukovil, Maheswarnath Mandir, etc. Juma Mosque in Port Louis is a perfect blend of Islamicarchitectural style, Creole and Indian styles. St. Louis Catholic Church is the oldest church in Port Louis. It was built between 1752 and 1756 in Port Louis on the island of Sainte Croix. Maheshwanath Temple was built in 1888 in Triolet, on the north side of the island.

Table 11: Hotels, Rooms and Bed Places Occupied by Touristsin Mauritius

Year	Large Hotels			All Hotels		
	Bed places	Rooms	Hotels	Bed places	Rooms	Hotels
2014	19,776	9,605	53	26,174	12,799	112
2015	22,096	10,378	55	28,732	13,617	115
2016	22,839	10,480	56	29,139	13,547	111
2017	23,579	10,570	57	29,650	13,511	111
2018	24,218	10,585	57	30,427	13,574	113



2019	24,743	10,539	58	31,024	13,489	112
2020	21,905	9,290	53	28,104	12,171	106
2021	26,261	11,178	61	32,157	13,902	111
2022	24,408	10,326	56	30,145	13,017	105
2023	25,193	10,804	60	30,752	13,387	107

Source: Source: Handbook of Statistical Data on Tourism 2023, Vol. 43, Ministry of Tourism, Republic of Mauritius, p.27.

Table 11 discusses the hotel, room and bed situation in Mauritius. The study noted that the number of rooms and beds occupied by tourists has increased since 2014, but has decreased in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. Mauritius has significant economic, political and social progress over the last 60 years. It has been inspired by Western social models in almost every area of human activity. Tourism has become a driver of economic growth worldwide, and Mauritius is no exception. Today, tourism is one of the largest industries driving economic growth in the country, creating jobs and employment. Over the years, the tourism sector has continued to grow and diversify. Mauritius gets more tourists from Europe. Mauritius is a tropical country in the Indian Ocean that offers a variety of activities, including exploring national parks, and hiking. Trails such as the Le Morne Walk and the Tamarind Waterfall Walk are worth seeing for their natural beauty. The best beaches for water sports are parasailing, pirate boats, catamarans and banana boats. The wildlife of Mauritius encompasses both flora and fauna. Mauritius is home to many species of reptiles, especially on its main island, Round Island. Mauritius is home to over 700 species of flowers, almost half of which (246) are endemic.

Table 12: Average length of stay (nights) of tourists by country in Mauritius

Continent	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Europe	11.8	12.3	13.5	12.3	11.1	11.3	11.4	11.6	12.0	12.6
Africa	9.0	9.4	15.4	10.4	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.2	8.1	8.2
Asia	12.4	12.8	24.5	19.2	12.3	10.0	9.1	8.8	9.1	9.1
Oceania	13.8	18.3	25.2	16.1	13.3	12.9	12.6	13.3	13.4	13.4
America	14.5	15.1	23.0	13.5	11.6	10.8	10.6	11.6	12.6	12.9
ALL	11.3	11.8	14.7	12.6	10.6	10.4	10.3	10.4	10.6	10.9

Source: Handbook of Statistical Data on Tourism 2023, Vol. 43, Ministry of Tourism, Republic of Mauritius, p.27.



Table 12 shows the average length of stay (number of nights) in Mauritius for tourists from different countries. The study found that tourists from Oceania and the Americas stay longer (more nights) on average than tourists from Europe, Asia and Africa. Tourists from Africa tend to stay shorter on average. Sex and travel are intertwined. Sex tourism is a new industry in Mauritius. In 2009, Mauritius was a source of child trafficking, largely due to the sexual exploitation of women in the country. High school girls and, to a lesser extent, teenage girls throughout the country, including Rodriguez, are recruited into prostitution by friends, family or other businesses. Taxi drivers reportedly provide transportation and guidance to the girls and their clients.

Opportunities for rural tourism abound in Mauritius, including visiting local producers, exploring parks and forests and staying in independent hotels. Mauritius is popular with tourists for its natural and man-made beauty, diverse ethnic and cultural heritage, warm climate, beaches and water sports. Agricultural tourism is a popular business in Mauritius that combines agriculture with tourism. It can include farm visits, cooking classes, home cooking, and business training. Heritage tourism in Mauritius involves visiting sites and activities that represent the history, people, and culture of the island. Famous places include the Blue Penny Museum, Eureka House, Pocheri Tea Museum, Museum and Factory, Adelaide Castle, Mourn Mountain, Aapravasi Ghat, etc.

Table 13: SWOT Analysis of Tourism Industry in Uganda

Strength Unique culture and Hospitable people Rich history and heritage Lots of tourists places and long beaches Scenic beauty of the nature and Historical monuments	Weakness Lack of fund for development Lack of transparency in policies Inadequacy of infrastructure Lack of proper rule and regulations
Opportunities New Tourism Products and Innovations. Increased disposable incomes of people High potential for eco-tourism	Threat Environmental factors Stiff competition from other states Global warming and climate change

(b) The Economic Perspectives and Employment Opportunities



Tourism can help preserve subcultures by investing in heritage and culture. Tourism stimulates economic growth by generating income and employment. It accounts for about 10 percent of the world's gross domestic product and employs a tenth of the world's population. Tourism marketing can raise awareness of the importance of safety among tourists, business owners and local communities. It is providing financial guidance for conservation projects. Partnerships between organizations and restaurants and retailers, helping businesses build better partnerships and strengthen local organizations.

Table 14: Gross Earnings (Rs.Million) from tourism in Mauritius

Year	July-Dec.	Jan-Jun	Total	Year	July-Dec.	Jan-Jun	Total
2014	21,727	22,577	44,304	2019	32,055	31,052	63,107
2015	25,951	24,240	50,191	2020	1,581	16,083	17,664
2016	28,679	27,188	55,867	2021	14,346	907	15,253
2017	30,943	29,319	60,262	2022	39,573	25,272	64,845
2018	30,578	33,460	64,037	2023	44,292	41,701	85,993

Source: Source: Handbook of Statistical Data on Tourism 2023, Vol. 43, Ministry of Tourism, Republic of Mauritius, p.25. Note: Figure in million Rs.

This table 14 shows the total income from tourism in Mauritius (in millions of rupees). Table shows that income in the July-December period is higher than the January-June period. This is because the number of tourists is higher in July and December. The number of tourists had been increasing since 2014, but there was a decline in 2020-21 due to the pandemic. Port Louis is a modern, multicultural city. Other cities are Wacos-Phoenix, Beau Bassin-Rose Hill, Curepipe, and Quaterrebonne.

Port Louis is the country's political and financial center. It is a popular port in the Indian Ocean. It is an important political and economic factor. Victoria Station and North Station are the largest stations. Visitors can easily navigate the city. There are many buildings and monuments that show the rich and colourful history of the city. The city still preserves many French monuments from the 18th century. For centuries, Port Louis has been a cultural city that has attracted many writers, sculptors, poets and artists. There are many cinema halls in the city for entertainment, mostly showing French and English films. The city's economy is based on finance, ports, tourism and manufacturing (textiles, chemical compounds, plastics and pharmaceuticals). Other tourist attractions in the city include the Science Museum, the



Blue Penny Museum, the History Museum, Port Adelaide, the Port Louis Racecourse and the Old Gaol.

Table 15: Expenditure of tourists by country of residence in Mauritius

Country	2023	2018	2017	2016	2015	2013	2012
France	20,900	13,100	12,000	11,700	10,600	11,000	10,300
United Kingdom	12,000	7,900	7,100	6,900	6,800	4,800	4,400
Germany	8,700	5,900	5,400	4,800	3,500	3,200	2,900
South Africa	4,600	4,300	3,900	3,300	3,200	3,500	3,300
Reunion Island	4,200	3,200	3,300	3,600	3,300	3,500	3,200
India	3,800	4,000	3,100	3,300	2,400	1,800	1,700
Switzerland	3,100	2,500	2,500	2,100	1,700	1,700	1,400
Italy	2,300	1,600	1,400	1,200	1,200	1,400	1,600
China	1,100	3,700	4,000	4,400	4,700	2,000	1,100
Other countries	26,700	17,900	17,300	14,900	12,600	9,000	8,600
All Countries	87,300	64,000	60,100	56,200	50,000	41,900	38,700

Source: Handbook of Statistical Data on Tourism 2023, Vol. 43, Ministry of Tourism, Republic of Mauritius, p. 26., Note: Figure in million Rs.

Table 15 shows the spending of tourists by country of origin in Mauritius. According to the table, tourists from France spent the most money, followed by those from the UK, Germany, and South Africa. Vacoas-Phoenix is a city in the Williams Plains region. One of its main tourist attractions is the museum. This colonial building was originally a Scottish Presbyterian church and was later converted into a general store. The Huacoas and Phoenix area offers a variety of accommodation, from self-catering apartments to five-star hotels, to meet all travel, entertainment and emergency needs.

Other tourist attractions of Vacoas-Phoenix include Tamarind Falls and the Visitation Church. Other popular places to visit around Vacoas-Phoenix include Les 7 Cascades, Le Morne Braban, SSR Botanical Gardens and Lavanture du Sucre. Beau Fables and Rose Hill are located within a short distance from each other and are essentially twin cities, so they are not of much interest to the general tourist. Beau Fables has a small park called Balfour Gardens, which overlooks the Williams Pass Plain and the falls. Many famous Victorian buildings are located among the closed shops and houses of Rosehill. Curepipe is a small town in the Wilhelms Plain region. The town has many textile factories, a diamond factory,



and several jewellery factories. One of the most popular tourist attractions is the Church of St. Paul. Therese, Montville Nature Park, Deer Cave, Curepipe Botanical Gardens, Curepipe Royal Academy. Cutlerborn is located in the Wilhelmplatz district. The city's main tourist attractions include the Black River Gorge, Casela Park, Eben Network City, Tamarin Falls, Bernd Wilhelm, Trianon Shopping Park and the Quarter Bornes Textile Market.

Table: 16: Expenditure of tourists by type of expenditure in Mauritius

Country	2023	2018	2017	2016	2015	2013	2012
Accommodation	60,200	40,300	37,100	34,100	30,300	24,700	22,600
Entertainment	7,900	7,700	6,700	6,800	5,700	4,600	3,200
Meals & Beverages	7,800	5,900	6,400	5,900	5,400	4,200	5,500
Shopping	5,400	5,100	5,200	5,000	5,100	4,400	4,100
Transport	4,300	2,700	2,700	2,600	2,300	3,300	2,900
Other expenditures	1,700	2,300	2,000	1,900	1,300	700	400
TOTAL	87,300	64,000	60,100	56,200	50,000	41,900	38,700

Source: Handbook of Statistical Data on Tourism 2023, Vol. 43, Ministry of Tourism, Republic of Mauritius, p.26. Note: Figure in million Rs.

Table 16 shows the expenditure of tourists in Mauritius by type of expenditure. The table revealed that tourists spend the most on accommodation, followed by entertainment, food, shopping and transportation. Mauritius is famous for its cuisine. Mauritian cuisine is greatly influenced by the island's tropical climate and the country's diversity. Many dishes and cooking methods are inspired by French culture, Indian workers and Chinese immigrants who arrived in the country in the 19th century. The delicacies include spicy fruit fry, dal puri, Mauritian curry, meatballs, sauté, herbal tea, biryani, tomato sauce, rum, pineapple and spicy salt. Therefore, local dishes reflect the strength, culture and history of each community. Chinese and French cuisine are very popular in Mauritius. Spices such as cloves, cardamom, black pepper and chilli are widely used in Mauritian cuisine.

Table 17: Tourist arrivals, Tourism Revenue and Gross Domestic Product of Mauritius



Year	Tourist Arrivals	Gross Domestic Product
2010	934,827	10.00
2011	964,642	11.52
2012	965,441	11.69
2013	992,503	12.29
2014	1,038,334	13.07
2015	1,151,252	12.01
2016	1,275,227	12.59
2017	1,341,860	13.71
2018	1,399,408	14.74
2019	1,383,488	14.44

Source: Handbook of Statistical Data on Tourism 2023, Vol. 43, Ministry of Tourism, Republic of Mauritius, p.29,

Table 17 (a): Summary Output

Regression Statistics	
Multiple R	0.858557441
R Square	0.73712088
Adjusted R Square	0.70426099
Standard Error	0.78213857
Observations	10

Source: Calculated by Author.

Table 17 (b): ANOVA Analysis

	df	SS	MS	F	Significance F
Regression	1	13.72271406	13.72271406	22.43223823	0.001471004
Residual	8	4.893925937	0.611740742		
Total	9	18.61664			

Source: Calculated by Author.

	Coefficients	Standard Error	t Stat	P-value
Intercept	5.120724914	1.59965287	3.201147579	0.012590618
Tourist Arrivals	6.53908E-06	1.38064E-06	4.736268387	0.001471004

Source: Calculated by Author.



The table (17-a) shows that R square is found to be 0.73712088, showing that the degree of relation between the independent variable X, i.e. arrivals of tourists, and the dependent variable Y, i.e. gross domestic product is strong. Table (17-b) shows that p value (0.001) is less than critical value at 5% level of significance ($p < 0.05$), therefore we will reject the null hypothesis-2. So, it is concluded that there is relationship between tourist arrivals and gross domestic product of Mauritius.

According the report of World Travel & Tourism Council, the contribution of tourism industry was 19% of total economy (i.e. 105.8 billion Mauritian rupee or 2.4 billion USD) in 2019. Later it declined due to corona pandemic and was reached 12.7% of total economy (i.e. 67.1 billion Mauritian rupee or 1.5 billion USD) in 2022. It was 15% of total economy (i.e. 81.6 billion Mauritian rupee or 1.8 billion USD) in 2023. International visitor spending in Mauritius was 78.0 billion Mauritian rupee or 1.8 billion USD in 2019. It was 57.6% of total exports of the country. It later declined due to corona pandemic and reached 43.2 billion Mauritian rupee or 0.98 billion USD in 2022. Comparing with 2019, expenditure was declined 44.6% in 2022.

Domestic visitor spending in Mauritius was 7.9 billion Mauritian rupee or 0.188 billion USD in 2019. It was 6.9 billion Mauritian rupee or 0.16 billion USD in 2022. The domestic expenditure increased 9.5% higher than 2022, but still it was 4.4% lower than 2019. Domestic spending and international spending was respectively 9.2% and 90.8% in 2019. It was respectively 13.7% and 86.3% in 2022. Total leisure spending and business spending were 64.5% and 35.5% in 2019. It was respectively 70.0% and 30.0% in 2022.

Table 18: Percentage (%) share of total spending of Inbound Arrivals and Outbound Departures in Mauritius

Inbound Arrivals		Outbound Departures	
2019	2022	2019	2022
1. France 22%	1. France 23%	1. France 61%	1. France 71%
2. U.K. 10%	2. South Africa 10%	2. India 9%	2. India 7%
3. Reunion 10%	3. India 9%	3. Reunion 5%	3. South Africa 4%
4. Germany 9%	4. Reunion 9%	4. China 4%	4. Malaysia 3%
5. South Africa 9%	5. U.K. 9%	5. South Africa 4%	5. Saudi Arabia 2%
6. Rest of world 40%	6. Rest of world 41%	6. Rest of world 18%	6. Rest of world 13%

Source: World Travel & Tourism Council; Travel and Tourism Economic Impact- 2023, p.2.



Tourism's direct contribution to GDP in 2022 was MUR 33.4 billion (6.3% of GDP) in 2022. This generally reflects the economy generated by industries such as hotels, travel agencies, airlines and other passenger transport services. The total contribution of tourism to GDP in 2022 was MUR 67.1 billion (12.7% of GDP). The tourism sector directly created 40,730 jobs in 2022 (7.8% of total employment). These include jobs in restaurants, travel agencies, airlines and other passenger transport services. The total employment potential of tourism services in 2022 is 77,208 people (14.9% of total jobs). A significant part of the direct contribution of tourism is made up of visitors going abroad. Mauritius 's income from tourism exports in 2022 was 43.2 billion Mauritian rupees.

(C)Challenges and Government Initiatives for Development of Tourism sector

Mauritius is a remote place that encompasses both beauty and ruggedness. But surprisingly, this paradise has not become a hidden treasure and tourism has quickly become the foundation of Mauritian life and the backbone of the Mauritian economy. Luxury tourism attracts a large number of people. Mauritius is facing increasing traffic, energy, water, food waste and pollution problems. Plastic waste poses a threat to wildlife, especially coral reefs, and human health. The commercial sector has also led to the construction of many facilities such as hotels, villas, restaurants, shopping malls. Such developments are damaging the biodiversity of the island, and often even destroying it. Mauritius is seen as a beach resort for hedonistic tourists focused on adventure. Sea and air transportation affect not only a country's foreign policy, but also its expectations and interests abroad. Access addresses island problems by improving the islands' connection to the outside world, internal mobility, and access to other means of transportation.

The damage caused by tourism also has a negative impact on the tourism sector. While environmental protection is closely linked to the economic return of tourism, tourism is also closely linked to the preservation of natural beauty. The government's main goal is to continue to attract "low-impact" and "high-spending" tourists, not low-income tourists who negatively impact the tourism sector. The National Tourism Development Plan is the main document of Mauritius' tourism strategy. The National Land Development Plan 2002 also emphasized the need for clear land use and physical development plans to ensure efficient land use. The 2002 National Development Plan identified six tourism development areas and developed development strategies and plans. The "Eastern Tourism Special Zone" is creating



high-end and luxury hotels. The government is committed to encouraging the creation of luxury hotels through environmental protection and construction. The vision of the South Coast Heritage Area is to preserve the island's rich landscape and natural environment.

In August 2016, the Ministry of Tourism issued a new law, the Tourism Safety Management Act, to regulate the management, licensing and operation of cruise ships, including the aim of improving the safety and security of cruise ships, which is the priority area. operation. The new law not only promotes safety at sea, but also harmony in the yachting industry. The agency successfully managed the peak travel season for the second consecutive year by collaborating with travel agencies, airlines and hotels to organize sports and catering events in May and September. The hotel division began its operations in February 2016 with the aim of providing the sector with clear operating standards. The ministry organized the "Tourism Support 2017" event on June 2 to identify the challenges affecting the sector and develop short- and medium-term plans to transform the sector for the better.

CONCLUSION

Mauritius is a magnificently beautiful place to visit. It is mostly known for its diversity of people and fauna. July to January are the best months to visit Mauritius. Tourism is a major factor in economic development. Tourism is one of the main drivers of the economy. Mauritius is a great place for bird watching, community walks, hiking and many other activities. It is famous for its beautiful scenery and natural beauty. Guests can enjoy white water rafting, mountain trekking, hunting and other activities. It is known for its abundant rich history, rich heritage, and sea beaches. It is successfully developing adventure tourism, rural tourism, religious tourism and other areas. Horse riding is a popular option for tourists to explore the open and rolling hills. Jet boating, and canoeing on the seas are other options to enjoy the beautiful scenery.

Mauritius has second position in Travel & Tourism Development Index (2024) among the East and Southern African Countries. Accordingly, Global Peace Index (2024), Mauritius is most peaceful country in the African continent, followed by Madagascar and Botswana. known for its beautiful beaches, lagoons, waterfalls and mountains. Mauritius is a newly developed country that has made significant economic, political and social progress over the last 60 years. It has been inspired by Western social models in almost every area of human activity. Air transportation is an easy way to reach the country. Flight connectivity is available to Port Louis from cities of numerous countries. Majority of tourists visiting



Mauritius come from the European continent. Mauritius is popular for rest/vacation/relaxation. The wildlife of Mauritius encompasses both flora and fauna. It is also popular with tourists for its natural and man-made beauty, diverse ethnic and cultural heritage, warm climate, beaches and water sports. Tourism is a major sector of the economy that strives to provide quality facilities and services to both citizens and tourists. It is a tool for economic development in terms of job creation, standard of living and foreign exchange. Tourism further enhances international relations through the marriage of cultures and other forms of interaction.

Mauritius's tourism industry has seen significant growth. Arrival of tourist and revenue from the industry was badly affected during the corona pandemic. Arrivals of tourist directly affected GDP of Mauritius. Tourism sector contributes nearly 15% of total economy of the country. Its direct contribution to GDP was 6.3% in 2022. Its total contribution to GDP was 12.7% in 2022. The total employment potential of tourism services was 14.9% of total jobs in 2022. Habitat loss, massive tourist overcrowding, and wildlife decline are currently causing problems for the economy. The Ministry of Tourism has introduced various policies and schemes for mitigating such challenges. Ministry has implemented various schemes and policies for mitigating such challenges, and flourishing the industry for development of the economy.

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