

Remitscope: Kenya Case*

Remittances

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Abstract

This document examines discrepancies identified in the Remitscope dataset, with a particular focus on Kenya. The analysis compares Remitscope data with official statistics published by the Central Bank of Kenya and the World Bank, highlighting significant differences in reported remittance values.

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1 Introduction

This report investigates the discrepancies between remittance data reported by Remitscope and the official figures published by the Central Bank of Kenya. The analysis focuses on Kenya as a case study, utilizing data sourced from the Remitscope website ([Remitscope Africa Themes](#)), the official statistics published by the Central Bank of Kenya ([Diaspora Remittances](#)), and the World Bank/IMF Balance of Payments remittance data ([World Bank Indicator](#)).

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2 Theory

Remitscope states that its dataset is sourced from the Central Bank of Kenya. Such that, remittance figures obtained directly from the Central Bank of Kenya should closely align with those reported by Remitscope. Furthermore, these values are expected to be broadly consistent with remittance data published by the World Bank.

3 Aggregate Analysis

Kenya presents a notable case of data inconsistency. Table 1 summarizes remittance inflows to Kenya as reported by Remitscope with all values attributed to the Central Bank of Kenya as the source.

Table 1: Remittance Inflows to Kenya as Reported by Remitscope (2024)

Sending Country	Receiving Country	Year	Value (USD millions)	Source
Australia	Kenya	2024	184,497.10	Central Bank of Kenya
Austria	Kenya	2024	13,169.07	Central Bank of Kenya
Bahamas	Kenya	2024	1,453.63	Central Bank of Kenya
Bahrain	Kenya	2024	5,004.77	Central Bank of Kenya
Belgium	Kenya	2024	22,844.65	Central Bank of Kenya
Canada	Kenya	2024	130,812.77	Central Bank of Kenya
China	Kenya	2024	5,981.68	Central Bank of Kenya
Côte d'Ivoire	Kenya	2024	4,351.23	Central Bank of Kenya
Egypt	Kenya	2024	2,710.85	Central Bank of Kenya
France	Kenya	2024	25,420.56	Central Bank of Kenya
Germany	Kenya	2024	197,764.19	Central Bank of Kenya
India	Kenya	2024	20,594.87	Central Bank of Kenya
Iraq	Kenya	2024	18,473.97	Central Bank of Kenya
Italy	Kenya	2024	33,857.17	Central Bank of Kenya
Japan	Kenya	2024	6,019.67	Central Bank of Kenya
Malawi	Kenya	2024	2,348.47	Central Bank of Kenya
<u>Namibia</u>	<u>Kenya</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>22.28</u>	<u>Central Bank of Kenya</u>
New Zealand	Kenya	2024	2,997.80	Central Bank of Kenya
Nigeria	Kenya	2024	7,235.87	Central Bank of Kenya
Norway	Kenya	2024	20,219.73	Central Bank of Kenya
Oman	Kenya	2024	8,642.36	Central Bank of Kenya
Qatar	Kenya	2024	69,232.14	Central Bank of Kenya
Saudi Arabia	Kenya	2024	404,105.02	Central Bank of Kenya
South Africa	Kenya	2024	24,095.10	Central Bank of Kenya
South Sudan	Kenya	2024	5,789.71	Central Bank of Kenya
Sweden	Kenya	2024	18,233.93	Central Bank of Kenya
Switzerland	Kenya	2024	51,518.22	Central Bank of Kenya
Tanzania	Kenya	2024	75,845.29	Central Bank of Kenya
The Netherlands	Kenya	2024	31,220.55	Central Bank of Kenya
Uganda	Kenya	2024	64,988.79	Central Bank of Kenya

Sending Country	Receiving Country	Year	Value (USD millions)	Source
United Arab Emirates	Kenya	2024	137,814.50	Central Bank of Kenya
United Kingdom	Kenya	2024	358,836.44	Central Bank of Kenya
United States	Kenya	2024	2,637,772.27	Central Bank of Kenya
Zambia	Kenya	2024	8,091.51	Central Bank of Kenya

A notable outlier is the entry for Namibia in 2020, which reports a single data point of 22 USD million. This raises the following questions:

1. Why is there only one data point for Namibia in 2020 from the Central Bank of Kenya?
2. Why does the Central Bank of Kenya report remittance inflows from only one country in 2020?

4 Comparison of Aggregate Remittance Data

Using the official Central Bank of Kenya data for 2024, the aggregate remittance inflows are as follows (values in USD millions):

- North America: 2,775.15
- Europe: 860.60
- Rest of World: 1,309.47
- **Total Remittances:** 4,945.22

In contrast, the Remitscope dataset (attributed to the Central Bank of Kenya) reports a total of:

- **Total Remittances:** 4,601,966.28

A comparative summary is presented in Table 2:

Table 2: Comparison of Total Remittance Inflows to Kenya (2024)

Source	Total Remittances (USD millions)
Central Bank of Kenya (Direct)	4,945
Remitscope (Central Bank)	4,601,966
World Bank (IMF balance of payments data)	4,999

As shown, the total remittance inflows reported by Remitscope sourced from the Central Bank of Kenya are nearly 930 times greater than the official figures published directly by the Central Bank and the World Bank.

5 Regional Analysis

Focusing on regional data, Remitscope reports the following remittance inflows from North America to Kenya (Table 3):

Table 3: North America Remittance Inflows to Kenya as Reported by Remitscope (2024)

Sending Country	Receiving Country	Year	Value (USD millions)	Source
Canada	Kenya	2024	130,812.77	Central Bank of Kenya
United States	Kenya	2024	2,637,772.27	Central Bank of Kenya

A comparison of North America remittance totals is presented in Table 4:

Table 4: Comparison of North America Remittance Inflows to Kenya (2024)

Source	Total Remittances (USD millions)
Central Bank of Kenya (Direct)	2,775.15
Remitscope (Central Bank)	2,768,585.04

Again, this demonstrates a substantial discrepancy between the two sources of roughly 1000 times.

6 GDP

According to the latest available data, Kenya’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is approximately USD 124.5 billion. In contrast, the aggregate remittance inflows reported by Remitscope (Central Bank) for Kenya approach USD 4.6 trillion. This figure is highly unlikely, as it exceeds Kenya’s GDP by a factor of more than 16,000.

7 Conclusion

The analysis demonstrates substantial inconsistencies between remittance data reported by Remitscope and the official statistics published by both the Central Bank of Kenya and the World Bank. The magnitude of these discrepancies, reaching several orders of difference. Further clarification from Remitscope is requested regarding the sources of these discrepancies.

8 References

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- Central Bank of Kenya. Diaspora Remittances. Retrieved October 21, 2025, from <https://www.centralbank.go.ke/diaspora-remittances/>
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