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## **STATISTICAL RELEASE**

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# **Tourism and migration**

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**The South Africa I know, the home I understand**



## Contents

<b>Preface</b>	2
<b>1. Key findings</b>	3
1.1 Travellers	3
1.1.1 Number of travellers	3
1.1.2 Mode of travel	4
1.2 Tourists	4
1.2.1 Mode of travel	4
1.2.2 Regional and national distribution	4
1.2.3 Purpose of visit	5
1.2.4 Sex and age distribution	6
<b>2. Figures</b>	7
Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in August 2018 and August 2019	7
Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in August 2018 and August 2019	7
Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in August 2018 and August 2019	8
<b>3. Tables</b>	9
Table 1 – Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction	9
Table 2 – Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction and mode of travel	10
Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, August 2019	11
Table 4 – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit	15
Table 5 – Number of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African regions by sex and age group	19
<b>4. Annexures</b>	20
4.1 Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists' difference between Jan–Aug 2018 and Jan–Aug 2019 by country of residence	20
<b>5. Explanatory notes</b>	24
5.1 Introduction	24
5.2 Purpose of the statistical release	24
5.3 Scope and coverage	24
5.4 Data	24
5.5 Limitations	25
5.5.1 Outbound tourists	25
5.5.2 Purpose of visit	25
5.6 Definition of terms	25
5.6.1 Definitions used by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)	25
5.6.2 Definitions used specifically in this release	25
5.7 Symbols used	26
5.8 Rounding off	26
<b>6. General information</b>	26

**Preface**

This monthly statistical release provides information on South African residents and foreign travellers who entered or left South Africa in August 2019. Specific focus is on foreign tourists who entered the country during this month. The tourists are classified by region and country of residence. Details of their mode of travel; the purpose of visit; age and sex distribution are also provided.

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**Statistician-General**

## 1. Key findings

### 1.1 Travellers

#### 1.1.1 Number of travellers

The routine data collected by the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into and out of South Africa shows that a total of 3 698 819 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry/exit in August 2019. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 1 006 615 South African residents and 2 692 204 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 482 712 arrivals, 522 927 departures and 976 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 1 377 914, 1 215 970 and 98 320, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in August 2018 and August 2019 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and transits increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 4,4% (from 462 206 in August 2018 to 482 712 in August 2019). Departures increased by 5,8% (from 494 032 in August 2018 to 522 927 in August 2019), and transits increased by 9,4% (from 892 in August 2018 to 976 in August 2019). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 3,5% (from 1 331 118 in August 2018 to 1 377 914 in August 2019), departures increased by 2,8% (from 1 183 057 in August 2018 to 1 215 970 in August 2019), and transits increased by 18,0% (from 83 351 in August 2018 to 98 320 in August 2019).

A comparison between the movements in July 2019 and August 2019 indicates that the volume of arrivals decreased for South African residents but increased for foreign travellers. The volume of departures and transits increased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 7,5% (from 522 117 in July 2019 to 482 712 in August 2019), departures increased by 20,2% (from 435 202 in July 2019 to 522 927 in August 2019), and transits increased by 23,7% (from 789 in July 2019 to 976 in August 2019). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 11,3% (from 1 238 165 in July 2019 to 1 377 914 in August 2019), departures increased by 15,9% (from 1 048 816 in July 2019 to 1 215 970 in August 2019), and transits increased by 25,0% (from 78 625 in July 2019 to 98 320 in August 2019).

Detailed information on the departure of travellers is not available in the movement control system. Data on the purpose of travel and the number of days South African residents intend to spend or spent abroad are not collected by the DHA. Hence, it is therefore not possible to categorise South African residents as tourists or non-tourists. However, some data are available on foreign arrivals for this categorisation.

As presented in Table 1 on page 9, in August 2019, 88 009 (6,4%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 289 905 (93,6%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in August 2019 but did not depart in August 2019 [334 102 (25,9%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in August 2019 and left in August 2019 [475 249 (36,8%)]; and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in August 2019 [480 554 (37,3%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In August 2019, there were 392 927 (30,5%) same-day visitors and 896 978 (69,5%) tourists. Between August 2018 and August 2019, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 4,8% (from 375 086 in August 2018 to 392 927 in August 2019) and that of tourists increased by 2,3% (from 876 926 in August 2018 to 896 978 in August 2019). Between July 2019 and August 2019, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 9,9% (from 357 643 in July 2019 to 392 927 in August 2019), and tourists increased by 13,5% (from 790 187 in July 2019 to 896 978 in August 2019).

### 1.1.2 Mode of travel

Information presented in Table 2 on page 10 shows that in August 2019, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 611 731 (70,6%) of the 3 698 819 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 1 080 319 (29,2%). Compared to the use of air and land transport, a smaller number of travellers, 6 769 (0,2%) used sea transport. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 183 318 (38,0%) came by air, 299 163 (62,0%) came by road and 231 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport. For departures, 202 037 (38,6%) used air, 320 708 (61,3%) used road and 182 (less than 0,1%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 976 (100,0%) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 288 407 (20,9%) arrived by air, 1 086 074 (78,8%) came by road and 3 433 (0,2%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 307 261 (25,3%) foreign travellers left by air, 905 786 (74,5%) left by road and 2 923 (0,2%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 98 320 (100,0%) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that of the 392 927 same-day visitors, an overwhelming majority, 363 721 (92,6%) arrived in the country by road, 29 199 (7,4%) flew into the country; and 7 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport. Information on tourists shows that 653 323 (72,8%) used road transport, 243 641 (27,2%) came by air transport and 14 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport.

## 1.2 Tourists

### 1.2.1 Mode of travel

The country of residence of tourists is used to categorise them according to their respective countries and regions. Information on the specific region and country of residence of tourists and the mode of travel used to enter South Africa is provided in Table 3 on pages 11 to 14. In August 2019, 184 821 (86,7%) of the 213 074 overseas tourists arrived in the country by air transport, whilst 28 250 (13,3%) came in by road transport and 3 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 623 287 (93,2%), followed by air travel, 45 443 (6,8%) and sea transport, 11 (less than 0,1%). The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 12 409 (89,6%) and 1 436 (10,4%) tourists used road transport.

### 1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In August 2019, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 118 657 (55,7%); North America, 39 448 (18,5%); Asia, 26 265 (12,3%); Australasia, 11 368 (5,3%); Central and South America, 9 806 (4,6%); and the Middle East, 7 530 (3,5%).

Figure 1 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 11 to 12 indicate that the ten leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in August 2019 were United States of America (USA), 34 967 (16,4%), United Kingdom (UK), 30 189 (14,2%); Germany, 18 787 (8,8%); France, 14 095 (6,6%); Italy, 13 517 (6,3%); The Netherlands, 13 076 (6,1%); Australia, 9 995 (4,7%); India, 7 555 (3,5%); China, 7 460 (3,5%); and Spain, 6 990 (3,3%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 73,5% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the ten leading countries between August 2018 and August 2019 shows that the number of tourists increased for three of the ten leading countries, Italy, India and USA. Australia had the largest decrease of 11,0% (from 11 226 tourists in August 2018 to 9 995 tourists in August 2019). Italy, on the other hand, had an increase of 12,1% (from 12 060 tourists in August 2018 to 13 517 tourists in August 2019).

Virtually all tourists from Africa, 668 741 (98,0%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: East and Central Africa, 6 777 (1,0%); West Africa, 5 862 (0,9%); and North Africa 1 206 (0,2%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in August 2019 were: Zimbabwe, 214 388 (32,1%); Lesotho, 120 510 (18,0%); Mozambique, 115 855 (17,3%); Swaziland, 89 605 (13,4%); Botswana, 62 365 (9,3%); Malawi, 20 338 (3,0%); Namibia, 15 949 (2,4%); Zambia, 13 905 (2,1%); Angola, 5 775 (0,9%) and DRC, 4 294 (0,6%). (See Figure 2 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 12 to 13). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,1% of all tourists from the SADC countries.

A comparison between movements in August 2018 and August 2019 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists increased for four of the ten leading countries (Swaziland, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Botswana), and decreased for six of the ten leading countries (Lesotho, DRC, Zambia, Namibia, Mozambique and Angola). Swaziland showed the largest increase of 16,5% (from 76 911 tourists in August 2018 to 89 605 in August 2019), while Lesotho showed the largest decrease of 5,4% (from 127 398 tourists in August 2018 to 120 510 in August 2019).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in August 2019 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8 and Table 3 on pages 13 to 14, were: Nigeria, 3 097 (22,4%); Kenya, 2 688 (19,4%); Ghana, 1 628 (11,8%); Uganda, 1 158 (8,4%); Gabon, 1 047 (7,6%); Egypt, 615 (4,4%); Ethiopia, 570 (4,1%); Cameroon, 404 (2,9%); Congo, 291 (2,1%) and Somalia, 236 (1,7%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 84,8% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in August 2018 and August 2019 shows that the number of tourists increased for three of the ten leading countries (Congo, Somalia, Kenya and Uganda) and decreased for six of the ten leading countries (Nigeria, Ethiopia, Ghana, Cameroon, Egypt and Gabon). Congo showed the largest increase of 28,8% (from 226 tourists in August 2018 to 291 in August 2019), while Nigeria showed the largest decrease of 41,5% (from 5 295 tourists in August 2018 to 3 097 in August 2019).

### 1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed in Table 4 on pages 15 to 18, in August 2019, the majority of tourists, 876 743 (97,7%), were in South Africa for holiday<sup>1</sup> compared to 14 821 (1,7%); 4 914 (0,5%) and 500 (0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and for medical treatment respectively.

Compared to other overseas regions, Europe had the highest numbers of tourists, 115 756 (55,9%) who came for holiday, 2 218 (48,7%) who came for business, 621 (52,2%) who came for study and 62 (72,1%) who came for medical treatment.

Within the overseas regions, Australasia had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for holiday, 98,7% (11 225), followed by Central and South America, 98,6% (9 668), North America, 98,0% (38 659), Europe, 97,6% (115 756), the Middle East, 97,0% (7 303), and Asia, 93,8% (24 633).

Asia, 5,2% (1 368) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business, followed by Europe, 1,9% (2 218), the Middle East, 1,8% (132), North America, 1,6% (612), Australasia, 1,1% (128), and Central and South America, 1,0% (97).

The Middle East had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to study, 1,3% (95), followed by Asia, 1,0% (250), Europe, 0,5% (621), North America, 0,4% (170), Central and South America, 0,4% (41), and Australasia, 0,1% (12).

Asia and Europe had 0,1% of their tourists who came for medical treatment. For the other two overseas regions, less than 0,1% of tourists from Australasia and North America came for medical treatment, whilst Central and South America and the Middle East had no tourists who came for medical treatment.

The majority of African tourists, 668 261 (97,9%) came to South Africa for holiday. However, the following differences in terms of reasons for travel were observed between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- A higher proportion of tourists from SADC countries, 98,1% (656 105) were on holiday, compared to 87,8% (12 156) from 'other' African countries who came for the same purpose. Information on the regions of 'other' African countries shows that 89,8% (5 266) of tourists from West Africa were on holiday, followed by tourists from East and Central Africa, 87,0% (5 896); and North Africa 82,4% (994) respectively.
- Business persons constituted 6,8% (941) of tourists from 'other' African countries and 1,4% (9 248) from SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 9,6% (116) of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes, followed by East and Central Africa, 7,9% (533) and West Africa, 5,0% (292).

<sup>1</sup> The holiday category includes tourists who came for vacation, visiting friends and relatives, shopping and other personal reasons. See section 5.5.2 on page 26 for a more detailed discussion.

- Students constituted 5,0% (692) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,5% (3 033) from SADC countries. North Africa, 8,0% (96) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes, followed by West Africa, 4,8% (283) and East and Central Africa, 4,6% (313).
- Medical treatment tourists constituted 0,4% (56) of tourists from 'other' African countries, while those from SADC constituted 0,1% (355) of its tourists. East and Central Africa, 0,5% (35) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by West Africa, 0,4% (21) and North Africa had no tourists who came for medical treatment.

#### 1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 19 shows that in August 2019, there were 485 375 (54,1%) male and 411 603 (45,9%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 110 863 (52,0%) male tourists and 102 211 (48,0%) female tourists. There were 365 056 (54,6%) male and 303 685 (45,4%) female tourists from SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 8 640 (62,4%) male and 5 205 (37,6%) female tourists.

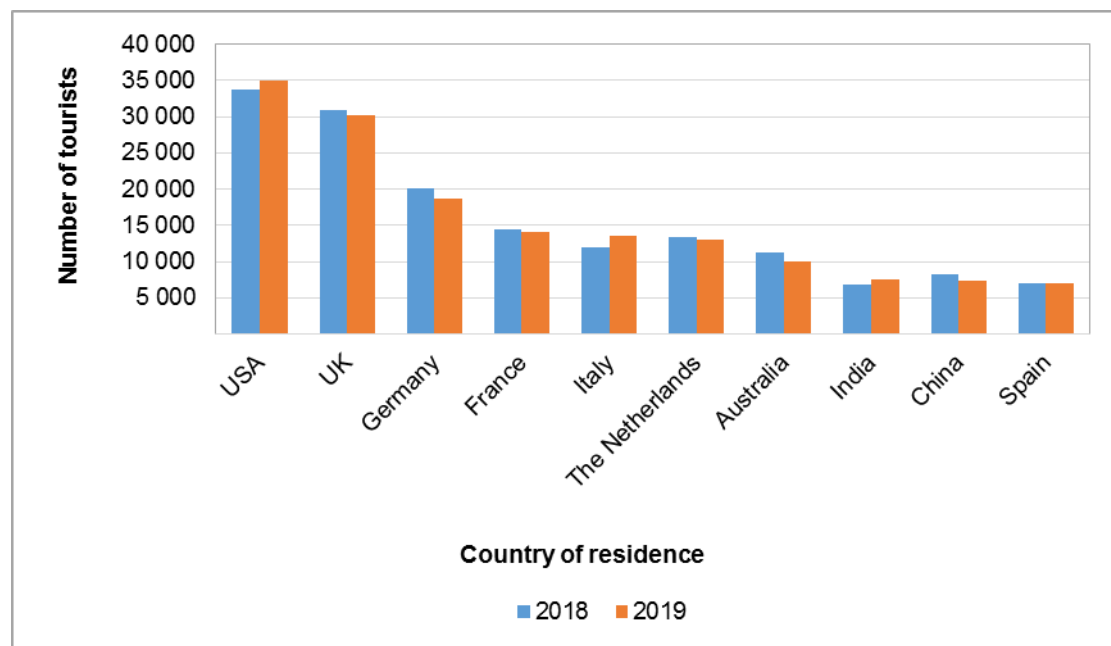
The ages of the tourists were categorised into seven broad groups (see Table 5 for detailed classification). The results presented in Table 5 further show that the majority of tourists were aged between 35 and 44 years [243 366 (27,1%)], followed closely by the age group 25 to 34 years [234 432 (26,1%)]. Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results show that the highest proportion of tourists from SADC countries [205 840 (30,8%)] and those from 'other' African countries [4 187 (30,2%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years, whereas those from overseas countries [40 045 (18,8%)] were aged between 45 and 54 years. The second highest proportion of tourists from SADC countries [192 960 (28,9%)], 'other' African countries [3 720 (26,9%)] and those from overseas countries [37 575 (17,6%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years. The median ages of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African countries were 41, 36 and 36 years respectively. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was higher among tourists from overseas countries, 9,5% (20 236) compared to those from 'other' African countries, 8,6% (1 186) and to those from SADC countries, 6,3% (42 174).

A comparison of the three regions shows higher proportions of the elderly among both male and female tourists from overseas. Tourists aged 65 years and older comprised 10,5% (11 599) of male and 10,7% (10 959) of female tourists from overseas. This is in contrast to the pattern observed among tourists from the other two regions where tourists aged 65 years and older comprised less than 4,0% of both male and female tourists. From SADC countries, elderly tourists made up 2,2% (8 125) and 3,5% (10 621) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 2,1% (183) and 1,9% (97) of male and female tourists respectively.

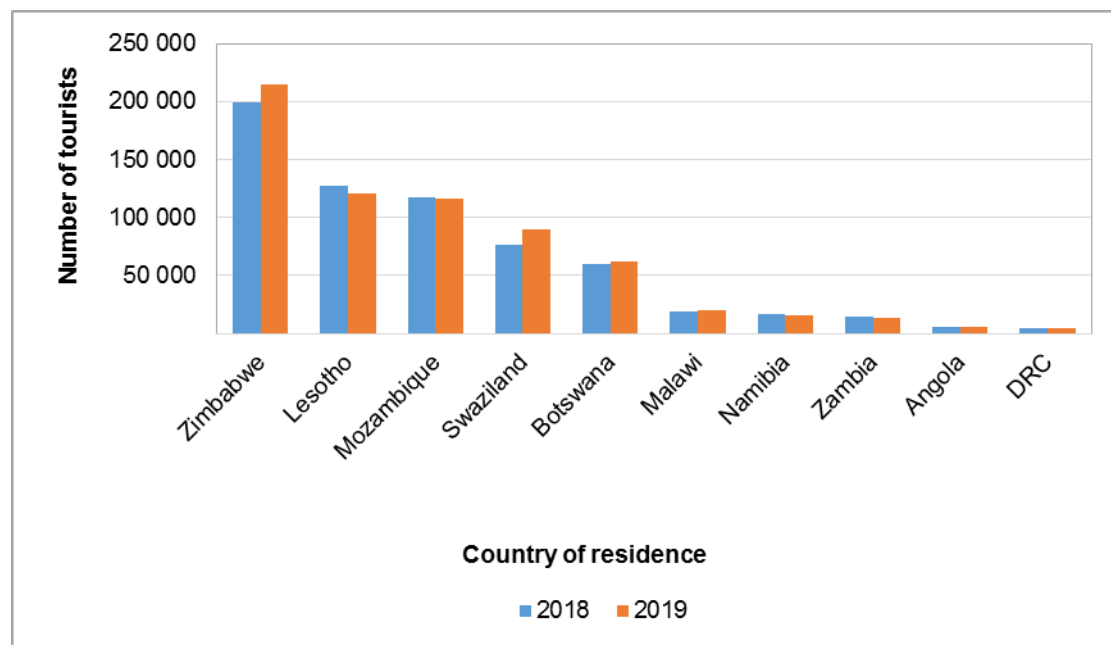


## 2. Figures

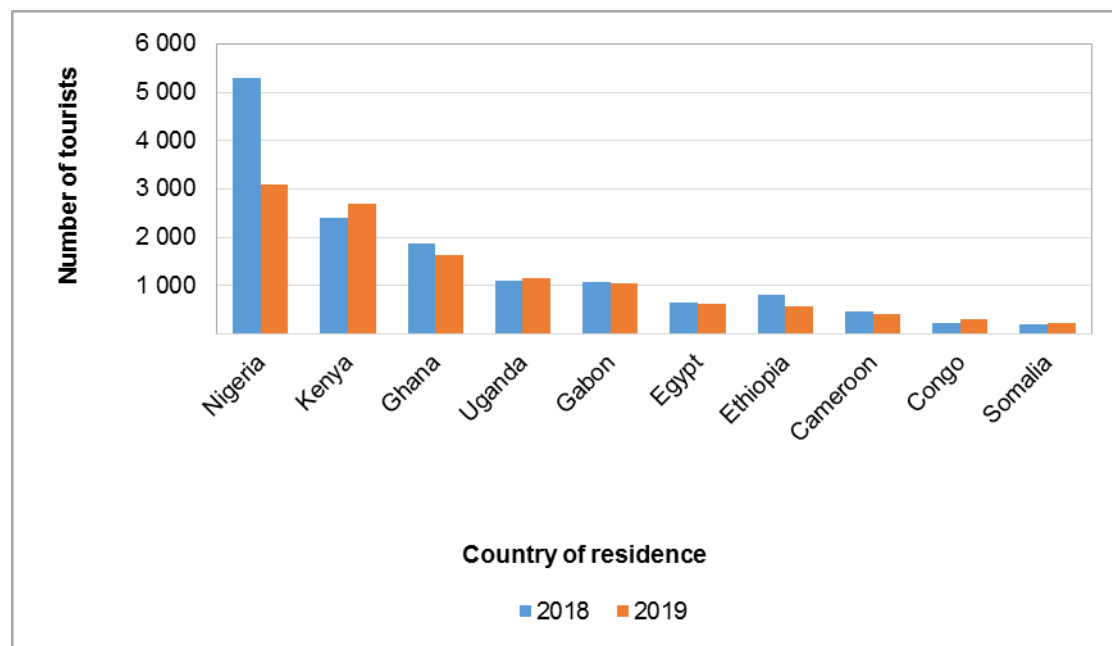
**Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in August 2018 and August 2019**



**Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in August 2018 and August 2019**





**Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in August 2018 and August 2019**

### 3. Tables

**Table 1 – Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction**

Travel Direction	August 2018	July 2019	August 2019	% Change Jul 2019 – Aug 2019	% Change Aug 2018 – Aug 2019
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 554 656</b>	<b>3 323 714</b>	<b>3 698 819</b>	<b>11,3%</b>	<b>4,1%</b>
<b>South African residents</b>	<b>957 130</b>	<b>958 108</b>	<b>1 006 615</b>	<b>5,1%</b>	<b>5,2%</b>
Arrivals	462 206	522 117	482 712	-7,5%	4,4%
Departures	494 032	435 202	522 927	20,2%	5,8%
Transits	892	789	976	23,7%	9,4%
<b>Foreign travellers</b>	<b>2 597 526</b>	<b>2 365 606</b>	<b>2 692 204</b>	<b>13,8%</b>	<b>3,6%</b>
Arrivals	1 331 118	1 238 165	1 377 914	11,3%	3,5%
Departures	1 183 057	1 048 816	1 215 970	15,9%	2,8%
Transits	83 351	78 625	98 320	25,0%	18,0%
<b>Foreign arrivals</b>	<b>1 331 118</b>	<b>1 238 165</b>	<b>1 377 914</b>	<b>11,3%</b>	<b>3,5%</b>
Non-visitors	79 106	90 335	88 009	-2,6%	11,3%
Visitors	1 252 012	1 147 830	1 289 905	12,4%	3,0%
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>1 252 012</b>	<b>1 147 830</b>	<b>1 289 905</b>	<b>12,4%</b>	<b>3,0%</b>
Arrivals only	328 082	327 470	334 102	2,0%	1,8%
Single trips	453 832	398 887	475 249	19,1%	4,7%
Multiple trips	470 098	421 473	480 554	14,0%	2,2%
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>1 252 012</b>	<b>1 147 830</b>	<b>1 289 905</b>	<b>12,4%</b>	<b>3,0%</b>
Same-Day	375 086	357 643	392 927	9,9%	4,8%
Overnight (Tourists)	876 926	790 187	896 978	13,5%	2,3%

**Table 2 – Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction and mode of travel**

Travel direction	Total	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O. R. Tambo	Other	Total		
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 698 819</b>	<b>180 139</b>	<b>34 707</b>	<b>856 436</b>	<b>9 037</b>	<b>1 080 319</b>	<b>2 611 731</b>	<b>6 769</b>
<b>South African residents</b>	<b>1 006 615</b>	<b>62 399</b>	<b>21 613</b>	<b>298 466</b>	<b>3 853</b>	<b>386 331</b>	<b>619 871</b>	<b>413</b>
Arrivals	<b>482 712</b>	30 358	10 023	141 122	1 815	<b>183 318</b>	299 163	231
Departures	<b>522 927</b>	32 032	11 590	156 377	2 038	<b>202 037</b>	320 708	182
Transit	<b>976</b>	9	-	967	-	<b>976</b>	-	-
<b>Foreign travellers</b>	<b>2 692 204</b>	<b>117 740</b>	<b>13 094</b>	<b>557 970</b>	<b>5 184</b>	<b>693 988</b>	<b>1 991 860</b>	<b>6 356</b>
Arrivals	<b>1 377 914</b>	56 519	5 991	223 941	1 956	<b>288 407</b>	1 086 074	3 433
Departures	<b>1 215 970</b>	61 009	7 103	235 921	3 228	<b>307 261</b>	905 786	2 923
Transit	<b>98 320</b>	212	-	98 108	-	<b>98 320</b>	-	-
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>1 289 905</b>	<b>54 045</b>	<b>5 112</b>	<b>211 981</b>	<b>1 702</b>	<b>272 840</b>	<b>1 017 044</b>	<b>21</b>
Same day	<b>392 927</b>	980	45	28 032	142	<b>29 199</b>	363 721	7
Tourist	<b>896 978</b>	53 065	5 067	183 949	1 560	<b>243 641</b>	653 323	14

**Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, August 2019**

Country of residence	August		August 2019						
	2018	2019	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
<b>Total</b>	<b>876 926</b>	<b>896 978</b>	<b>53 065</b>	<b>5 067</b>	<b>183 949</b>	<b>1 560</b>	<b>243 641</b>	<b>653 323</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Overseas</b>	<b>213 761</b>	<b>213 074</b>	<b>45 219</b>	<b>4 301</b>	<b>134 129</b>	<b>1 172</b>	<b>184 821</b>	<b>28 250</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>121 751</b>	<b>118 657</b>	<b>26 931</b>	<b>2 877</b>	<b>67 521</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>97 641</b>	<b>21 013</b>	<b>3</b>
Austria	1 810	1 934	564	27	1 052	1	1 644	290	-
Belgium	5 058	4 244	743	39	2 345	5	3 132	1 112	-
Denmark	1 122	1 117	207	14	785	3	1 009	108	-
France	14 528	14 095	3 187	108	7 462	27	10 784	3 311	-
Germany	20 130	18 787	4 463	327	11 089	25	15 904	2 883	-
Ireland	1 987	1 946	586	86	1 063	1	1 736	210	-
Italy	12 060	13 517	4 216	93	7 199	47	11 555	1 962	-
Portugal	2 461	2 413	377	78	919	5	1 379	1 034	-
Spain	7 000	6 990	1 541	30	4 262	54	5 887	1 103	-
Sweden	1 190	1 032	276	34	627	-	937	95	-
Switzerland	2 512	2 312	529	25	1 381	12	1 947	365	-
The Netherlands	13 315	13 076	2 166	105	5 802	11	8 084	4 992	-
Turkey	1 376	1 035	282	50	591	-	923	112	-
UK	30 967	30 189	6 423	1 617	19 323	93	27 456	2 733	-
Other	6 235	5 970	1 371	244	3 621	28	5 264	703	3
<b>North America</b>	<b>38 467</b>	<b>39 448</b>	<b>9 295</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>26 397</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>36 795</b>	<b>2 653</b>	<b>-</b>
Canada	4 694	4 481	1 186	57	2 797	62	4 102	379	-
USA	33 773	34 967	8 109	423	23 600	561	32 693	2 274	-
<b>Central and South America</b>	<b>9 034</b>	<b>9 806</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>8 531</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9 158</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>-</b>
Argentina	1 200	953	22	6	863	-	891	62	-
Brazil	5 232	6 114	268	4	5 454	1	5 727	387	-
Peru	275	621	16	-	578	5	599	22	-
Other	2 327	2 118	286	10	1 636	9	1 941	177	-

**Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, August 2019 (continued)**

Country of residence	August		August 2019						
	2018	2019	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
<b>Australasia</b>	<b>12 557</b>	<b>11 368</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>9 319</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>10 528</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>-</b>
Australia	11 226	9 995	849	60	8 225	127	9 261	734	-
New Zealand	1 300	1 356	143	17	1 081	10	1 251	105	-
Other	31	17	3	-	13	-	16	1	-
<b>Middle East</b>	<b>5 404</b>	<b>7 530</b>	<b>1 975</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>5 269</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7 333</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>-</b>
Israel	2 441	2 924	425	5	2 317	12	2 759	165	-
Saudi Arabia	1 396	2 260	485	5	1 766	-	2 256	4	-
United Arab Emirates	424	887	617	4	265	-	886	1	-
Other	1 143	1 459	448	63	921	-	1 432	27	-
<b>Asia</b>	<b>26 548</b>	<b>26 265</b>	<b>5 431</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>17 092</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>23 366</b>	<b>2 899</b>	<b>-</b>
China	8 347	7 460	1 401	98	5 487	7	6 993	467	-
India	6 896	7 555	1 502	255	4 873	4	6 634	921	-
Japan	3 005	2 810	463	35	2 145	23	2 666	144	-
Malaysia	726	865	301	67	454	4	826	39	-
Pakistan	1 153	1 042	63	26	526	-	615	427	-
Philippines	628	767	222	64	404	2	692	75	-
Singapore	979	1 062	378	3	622	31	1 034	28	-
South Korea	2 022	1 910	583	44	1 057	2	1 686	224	-
Taiwan	504	697	151	-	375	-	526	171	-
Thailand	1 075	838	136	86	548	-	770	68	-
Other	1 213	1 259	231	92	601	-	924	335	-
<b>Africa</b>	<b>662 058</b>	<b>682 586</b>	<b>7 767</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>48 933</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>57 852</b>	<b>624 723</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>SADC</b>	<b>645 837</b>	<b>668 741</b>	<b>6 052</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>38 334</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>45 443</b>	<b>623 287</b>	<b>11</b>
Angola	5 827	5 775	2 128	-	3 154	6	5 288	487	-
Botswana	60 097	62 365	217	146	2 653	58	3 074	59 291	-
DRC	4 488	4 294	273	3	3 361	6	3 643	651	-
Lesotho	127 398	120 510	6	3	543	3	555	119 955	-

**Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, August 2019 (continued)**

Country of residence	August		August 2019						
	2018	2019	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Madagascar	214	257	12	-	227	1	240	17	-
Malawi	18 645	20 338	35	2	2 111	6	2 154	18 184	-
Mauritius	1 477	1 807	410	134	1 176	-	1 720	87	-
Mozambique	117 966	115 855	6	58	2 952	16	3 032	112 823	-
Namibia	16 265	15 949	1 833	147	2 586	12	4 578	11 360	11
Seychelles	368	419	1	-	401	-	402	17	-
Swaziland	76 911	89 605	1	1	602	-	604	89 001	-
Tanzania	2 791	3 274	115	1	1 723	-	1 839	1 435	-
Zambia	14 495	13 905	42	147	3 344	47	3 580	10 325	-
Zimbabwe	198 895	214 388	973	42	13 501	218	14 734	199 654	-
<b>'Other' African</b>	<b>16 221</b>	<b>13 845</b>	<b>1 715</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>10 599</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12 409</b>	<b>1 436</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>East and Central Africa</b>	<b>6 605</b>	<b>6 777</b>	<b>1 010</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4 992</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6 023</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>-</b>
Burundi	92	118	18	-	91	-	109	9	-
Cameroon	459	404	44	2	310	4	360	44	-
Central African Republic	8	16	-	-	16	-	16	-	-
Chad	21	26	1	-	25	-	26	-	-
Comoros	27	27	3	-	23	-	26	1	-
Congo	226	291	78	-	208	-	286	5	-
Djibouti	7	8	2	-	6	-	8	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	16	36	9	-	26	-	35	1	-
Eritrea	64	46	2	-	41	-	43	3	-
Ethiopia	818	570	90	7	389	2	488	82	-
Gabon	1 070	1 047	193	-	852	-	1 045	2	-
Kenya	2 403	2 688	384	2	2 017	-	2 403	285	-
Rwanda	98	106	27	-	59	-	86	20	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Somalia	185	236	38	1	41	1	81	155	-
Uganda	1 105	1 158	121	1	888	1	1 011	147	-

**Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, August 2019 (concluded)**

Country of residence	August		August 2019						
	2018	2019	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
<b>West Africa</b>	<b>8 408</b>	<b>5 862</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>4 691</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5 233</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>-</b>
Benin	160	184	34	-	139	2	175	9	-
Burkina Faso	60	60	1	-	59	-	60	-	-
Cape Verde Island	33	28	6	-	15	-	21	7	-
Côte d'Ivoire	248	229	29	2	195	-	226	3	-
Gambia	54	40	7	4	19	-	30	10	-
Ghana	1 874	1 628	184	2	1 363	2	1 551	77	-
Guinea	177	107	3	-	61	-	64	43	-
Guinea-Bissau	11	10	-	-	6	-	6	4	-
Liberia	51	66	9	-	53	-	62	4	-
Mali	97	86	12	-	40	-	52	34	-
Mauritania	23	18	-	-	17	-	17	1	-
Niger	27	31	3	-	28	-	31	-	-
Nigeria	5 295	3 097	181	16	2 480	1	2 678	419	-
Saint Helena	10	16	2	-	14	-	16	-	-
Senegal	177	158	27	4	120	-	151	7	-
Sierra Leone	74	68	9	-	50	-	59	9	-
Togo	37	36	2	-	32	-	34	2	-
<b>North Africa</b>	<b>1 208</b>	<b>1 206</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1 153</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>-</b>
Algeria	76	119	8	6	104	-	118	1	-
Egypt	651	615	82	11	493	1	587	28	-
Libya	62	52	22	-	19	-	41	11	-
Morocco	115	119	22	3	86	-	111	8	-
South Sudan	83	57	12	-	43	-	55	2	-
The Sudan	167	150	41	1	105	-	147	3	-
Tunisia	54	92	9	19	64	-	92	-	-
Western Sahara	-	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	-
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>1 107</b>	<b>1 318</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>-</b>



**Table 4 – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit**

Country of residence	August		Purpose of visit (August 2019)			
	2018	2019	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
<b>Total</b>	<b>876 926</b>	<b>896 978</b>	<b>14 821</b>	<b>876 743</b>	<b>4 914</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Overseas</b>	<b>213 761</b>	<b>213 074</b>	<b>4 555</b>	<b>207 244</b>	<b>1 189</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>121 751</b>	<b>118 657</b>	<b>2 218</b>	<b>115 756</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>62</b>
Austria	1 810	1 934	39	1 890	5	-
Belgium	5 058	4 244	77	4 150	16	1
Denmark	1 122	1 117	32	1 079	5	1
France	14 528	14 095	178	13 710	205	2
Germany	20 130	18 787	376	18 336	75	-
Ireland	1 987	1 946	65	1 878	1	2
Italy	12 060	13 517	97	13 393	25	2
Portugal	2 461	2 413	33	2 362	14	4
Spain	7 000	6 990	58	6 911	21	-
Sweden	1 190	1 032	29	987	16	-
Switzerland	2 512	2 312	49	2 251	10	2
The Netherlands	13 315	13 076	173	12 830	62	11
Turkey	1 376	1 035	81	937	17	-
UK	30 967	30 189	655	29 393	109	32
Other	6 235	5 970	276	5 649	40	5
<b>North America</b>	<b>38 467</b>	<b>39 448</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>38 659</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>7</b>
Canada	4 694	4 481	99	4 354	26	2
USA	33 773	34 967	513	34 305	144	5
<b>Central and South America</b>	<b>9 034</b>	<b>9 806</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>9 668</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>-</b>
Argentina	1 200	953	15	936	2	-
Brazil	5 232	6 114	36	6 057	21	-
Peru	275	621	6	614	1	-
Other	2 327	2 118	40	2 061	17	-

**Table 4 – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit (continued)**

Country of residence	August		Purpose of visit (August 2019)			
	2018	2019	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
<b>Australasia</b>	<b>12 557</b>	<b>11 368</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>11 225</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>
Australia	11 226	9 995	103	9 878	11	3
New Zealand	1 300	1 356	23	1 332	1	-
Other	31	17	2	15	-	-
<b>Middle East</b>	<b>5 404</b>	<b>7 530</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>7 303</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>-</b>
Israel	2 441	2 924	30	2 882	12	-
Saudi Arabia	1 396	2 260	6	2 230	24	-
United Arab Emirates	424	887	3	879	5	-
Other	1 143	1 459	93	1 312	54	-
<b>Asia</b>	<b>26 548</b>	<b>26 265</b>	<b>1 368</b>	<b>24 633</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>14</b>
China	8 347	7 460	454	6 974	32	-
India	6 896	7 555	571	6 879	96	9
Japan	3 005	2 810	89	2 700	20	1
Malaysia	726	865	17	843	5	-
Pakistan	1 153	1 042	27	995	19	1
Philippines	628	767	27	732	8	-
Singapore	979	1 062	31	1 030	1	-
South Korea	2 022	1 910	60	1 826	21	3
Taiwan	504	697	14	682	1	-
Thailand	1 075	838	13	812	13	-
Other	1 213	1 259	65	1 160	34	-
<b>Africa</b>	<b>662 058</b>	<b>682 586</b>	<b>10 189</b>	<b>668 261</b>	<b>3 725</b>	<b>411</b>
<b>SADC</b>	<b>645 837</b>	<b>668 741</b>	<b>9 248</b>	<b>656 105</b>	<b>3 033</b>	<b>355</b>
Angola	5 827	5 775	60	5 541	139	35
Botswana	60 097	62 365	382	61 524	342	117
DRC	4 488	4 294	93	3 950	192	59
Lesotho	127 398	120 510	1 002	118 615	893	-

**Table 4 – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit (continued)**

Country of residence	August		Purpose of visit (August 2019)			
	2018	2019	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Madagascar	214	257	11	236	10	-
Malawi	18 645	20 338	163	20 104	63	8
Mauritius	1 477	1 807	83	1 693	30	1
Mozambique	117 966	115 855	2 212	113 454	152	37
Namibia	16 265	15 949	1 992	13 697	226	34
Seychelles	368	419	7	406	3	3
Swaziland	76 911	89 605	204	89 111	282	8
Tanzania	2 791	3 274	109	3 088	71	6
Zambia	14 495	13 905	1 379	12 407	103	16
Zimbabwe	198 895	214 388	1 551	212 279	527	31
<b>'Other' African</b>	<b>16 221</b>	<b>13 845</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>12 156</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>East and Central Africa</b>	<b>6 605</b>	<b>6 777</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>5 896</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>35</b>
Burundi	92	118	7	101	6	4
Cameroon	459	404	29	331	37	7
Central African Republic	8	16	2	12	2	-
Chad	21	26	-	23	3	-
Comoros	27	27	2	25	-	-
Congo	226	291	8	260	16	7
Djibouti	7	8	1	7	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	16	36	6	24	6	-
Eritrea	64	46	2	44	-	-
Ethiopia	818	570	58	480	25	7
Gabon	1 070	1 047	6	989	52	-
Kenya	2 403	2 688	280	2 292	112	4
Rwanda	98	106	12	91	3	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	6	-	-	-	-	-
Somalia	185	236	23	211	1	1
Uganda	1 105	1 158	97	1 006	50	5

**Table 4 – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit (concluded)**

Country of residence	August		Purpose of visit (August 2019)			
	2018	2019	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
<b>West Africa</b>	<b>8 408</b>	<b>5 862</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>5 266</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>21</b>
Benin	160	184	5	173	6	-
Burkina Faso	60	60	6	53	1	-
Cape Verde Island	33	28	2	26	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	248	229	25	190	13	1
Gambia	54	40	1	32	7	-
Ghana	1 874	1 628	123	1 456	41	8
Guinea	177	107	1	101	3	2
Guinea-Bissau	11	10	-	10	-	-
Liberia	51	66	4	59	1	2
Mali	97	86	6	76	4	-
Mauritania	23	18	-	18	-	-
Niger	27	31	-	31	-	-
Nigeria	5 295	3 097	90	2 815	186	6
Saint Helena	10	16	-	15	-	1
Senegal	177	158	20	123	15	-
Sierra Leone	74	68	6	58	4	-
Togo	37	36	3	30	2	1
<b>North Africa</b>	<b>1 208</b>	<b>1 206</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>994</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>-</b>
Algeria	76	119	6	97	16	-
Egypt	651	615	59	515	41	-
Libya	62	52	2	39	11	-
Morocco	115	119	17	97	5	-
South Sudan	83	57	10	44	3	-
The Sudan	167	150	13	123	14	-
Tunisia	54	92	9	77	6	-
Western Sahara	-	2	-	2	-	-
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>1 107</b>	<b>1 318</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>1 238</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>

**Table 5 – Number of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African regions by sex and age group**

Sex	Age group	August		Region (August 2019)			
		2018	2019	Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
<b>All</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>876 926</b>	<b>896 978</b>	<b>213 074</b>	<b>668 741</b>	<b>13 845</b>	<b>1 318</b>
	0-14	59 857	63 609	20 236	42 174	1 186	13
	15-24	92 513	91 074	26 458	63 316	1 271	29
	25-34	231 968	234 432	37 575	192 960	3 720	177
	35-44	234 547	243 366	32 964	205 840	4 187	375
	45-54	138 943	143 615	40 045	100 862	2 278	430
	55-64	76 562	79 272	33 238	44 843	923	268
	65+	42 536	41 610	22 558	18 746	280	26
<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>475 239</b>	<b>485 375</b>	<b>110 863</b>	<b>365 056</b>	<b>8 640</b>	<b>816</b>
	0-14	30 080	31 711	10 509	20 590	606	6
	15-24	47 324	46 326	12 279	33 372	656	19
	25-34	125 280	126 362	18 752	105 269	2 235	106
	35-44	136 535	141 307	18 518	119 790	2 773	226
	45-54	76 608	79 364	21 458	56 078	1 559	269
	55-64	38 847	40 378	17 748	21 832	628	170
	65+	20 565	19 927	11 599	8 125	183	20
<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>401 687</b>	<b>411 603</b>	<b>102 211</b>	<b>303 685</b>	<b>5 205</b>	<b>502</b>
	0-14	29 777	31 898	9 727	21 584	580	7
	15-24	45 189	44 748	14 179	29 944	615	10
	25-34	106 688	108 070	18 823	87 691	1 485	71
	35-44	98 012	102 059	14 446	86 050	1 414	149
	45-54	62 335	64 251	18 587	44 784	719	161
	55-64	37 715	38 894	15 490	23 011	295	98
	65+	21 971	21 683	10 959	10 621	97	6

## 4. Annexures

### 4.1 Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists' difference between Jan – Aug 2018 and Jan – Aug 2019 by country of residence

Country of residence	Jan – Aug 2018	Jan – Aug 2019	Difference between Jan – Aug 2018 and Jan – Aug 2019	% change between Jan – Aug 2018 and Jan – Aug 2019
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 885 371</b>	<b>6 782 362</b>	<b>-103 009</b>	<b>-1,5%</b>
<b>Overseas</b>	<b>1 693 076</b>	<b>1 658 983</b>	<b>-34 093</b>	<b>-2,0%</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>998 635</b>	<b>964 208</b>	<b>-34 427</b>	<b>-3,4%</b>
Austria	17 781	18 398	617	3,5%
Belgium	35 702	33 985	-1 717	-4,8%
Denmark	18 026	15 812	-2 214	-12,3%
France	116 464	106 325	-10 139	-8,7%
Germany	196 870	182 378	-14 492	-7,4%
Ireland	19 405	18 870	-535	-2,8%
Italy	41 733	44 281	2 548	6,1%
Norway	12 406	11 116	-1 290	-10,4%
Portugal	20 307	19 878	-429	-2,1%
Spain	27 214	28 037	823	3,0%
Sweden	27 924	24 558	-3 366	-12,1%
Switzerland	32 698	31 305	-1 393	-4,3%
The Netherlands	90 513	90 280	-233	-0,3%
UK	277 030	277 869	839	0,3%
Other	64 562	61 116	-3 446	-5,3%
<b>North America</b>	<b>293 314</b>	<b>293 449</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>0,0%</b>
Canada	41 264	41 250	-14	0,0%
USA	252 050	252 199	149	0,1%
<b>Central and South America</b>	<b>76 850</b>	<b>76 310</b>	<b>-540</b>	<b>-0,7%</b>
Argentina	14 196	11 914	-2 282	-16,1%
Brazil	45 352	46 819	1 467	3,2%
Chile	4 689	4 111	-578	-12,3%
Other	12 613	13 466	853	6,8%

**Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists' difference between Jan – Aug 2018 and Jan – Aug 2019 by country of residence (continued)**

Country of residence	Jan – Aug 2018	Jan – Aug 2019	Difference between Jan – Aug 2018 and Jan – Aug 2019	% change between Jan – Aug 2018 and Jan – Aug 2019
<b>Australasia</b>	<b>83 887</b>	<b>80 670</b>	<b>-3 217</b>	<b>-3,8%</b>
Australia	74 356	71 396	-2 960	-4,0%
New Zealand	9 365	9 080	-285	-3,0%
Other	166	194	28	16,9%
<b>Middle East</b>	<b>34 150</b>	<b>36 006</b>	<b>1 856</b>	<b>5,4%</b>
Israel	16 426	16 550	124	0,8%
Saudi Arabia	6 308	8 000	1 692	26,8%
United Arab Emirates	1 963	2 418	455	23,2%
Other	9 453	9 038	-415	-4,4%
<b>Asia</b>	<b>206 240</b>	<b>208 340</b>	<b>2 100</b>	<b>1,0%</b>
China	63 405	61 376	-2 029	-3,2%
India	64 115	65 793	1 678	2,6%
Japan	17 663	18 187	524	3,0%
Malaysia	4 824	6 577	1 753	36,3%
Pakistan	10 011	9 437	-574	-5,7%
Philippines	4 868	5 111	243	5,0%
Singapore	5 636	6 310	674	12,0%
South Korea	15 523	14 296	-1 227	-7,9%
Taiwan	3 524	4 405	881	25,0%
Thailand	5 078	5 335	257	5,1%
Other	11 593	11 513	-80	-0,7%
<b>Africa</b>	<b>5 183 865</b>	<b>5 113 652</b>	<b>-70 213</b>	<b>-1,4%</b>
<b>SADC</b>	<b>5 070 008</b>	<b>5 004 777</b>	<b>-65 231</b>	<b>-1,3%</b>
Angola	43 461	43 874	413	1,0%
Botswana	423 337	423 158	-179	0,0%
DRC	22 959	22 711	-248	-1,1%
Lesotho	1 220 739	1 079 534	-141 205	-11,6%



**Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists' difference between Jan – Aug 2018 and Jan – Aug 2019 by country of residence (continued)**

Country of residence	Jan – Aug 2018	Jan – Aug 2019	Difference between Jan – Aug 2018 and Jan – Aug 2019	% change between Jan – Aug 2018 and Jan – Aug 2019
Madagascar	1 648	1 723	75	4,6%
Malawi	127 588	130 383	2 795	2,2%
Mauritius	12 406	14 046	1 640	13,2%
Mozambique	918 654	902 042	-16 612	-1,8%
Namibia	127 148	121 198	-5 950	-4,7%
Seychelles	3 406	3 526	120	3,5%
Swaziland	571 229	601 445	30 216	5,3%
Tanzania	23 185	24 664	1 479	6,4%
Zambia	108 672	102 010	-6 662	-6,1%
Zimbabwe	1 465 576	1 534 463	68 887	4,7%
<b>'Other' African</b>	<b>113 857</b>	<b>108 875</b>	<b>-4 982</b>	<b>-4,4%</b>
<b>East and Central Africa</b>	<b>46 354</b>	<b>47 186</b>	<b>832</b>	<b>1,8%</b>
Burundi	534	657	123	23,0%
Cameroon	3 382	3 414	32	0,9%
Central African Republic	109	103	-6	-5,5%
Chad	234	246	12	5,1%
Comoros	207	234	27	13,0%
Congo	1 877	1 690	-187	-10,0%
Djibouti	68	67	-1	-1,5%
Equatorial Guinea	236	281	45	19,1%
Eritrea	463	463	-	0,0%
Ethiopia	6 197	4 542	-1 655	-26,7%
Gabon	4 491	4 332	-159	-3,5%
Kenya	17 933	19 515	1 582	8,8%
Réunion	15	11	-4	-26,7%
Rwanda	667	742	75	11,2%
São Tomé and Príncipe	79	49	-30	-38,0%
Somalia	899	1 390	491	54,6%
Uganda	8 963	9 450	487	5,4%

**Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists' difference between Jan – Aug 2018 and Jan – Aug 2019 by country of residence (concluded)**

Country of residence	Jan – Aug 2018	Jan – Aug 2019	Difference between Jan – Aug 2018 and Jan – Aug 2019	% change between Jan – Aug 2018 and Jan – Aug 2019
<b>West Africa</b>	<b>57 228</b>	<b>50 522</b>	<b>-6 706</b>	<b>-11,7%</b>
Benin	936	1 200	264	28,2%
Burkina Faso	469	527	58	12,4%
Cape Verde Island	228	250	22	9,6%
Côte d'Ivoire	1 816	1 941	125	6,9%
Gambia	357	273	-84	-23,5%
Ghana	13 299	12 219	-1 080	-8,1%
Guinea	1 078	882	-196	-18,2%
Guinea-Bissau	110	83	-27	-24,5%
Liberia	437	486	49	11,2%
Mali	952	751	-201	-21,1%
Mauritania	145	144	-1	-0,7%
Niger	207	225	18	8,7%
Nigeria	34 701	29 064	-5 637	-16,2%
Saint Helena	95	65	-30	-31,6%
Senegal	1 584	1 437	-147	-9,3%
Sierra Leone	397	509	112	28,2%
Togo	417	466	49	11,8%
<b>North Africa</b>	<b>10 275</b>	<b>11 167</b>	<b>892</b>	<b>8,7%</b>
Algeria	625	1 036	411	65,8%
Egypt	5 243	5 468	225	4,3%
Libya	559	526	-33	-5,9%
Morocco	1 209	1 426	217	17,9%
South Sudan	542	629	87	16,1%
The Sudan	1 404	1 178	-226	-16,1%
Tunisia	673	894	221	32,8%
Western Sahara	20	10	-10	-50,0%
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>8 430</b>	<b>9 727</b>	<b>1 297</b>	<b>15,4%</b>

## 5. Explanatory notes

### NOTE TO USERS

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) has made changes in the *Tourism and Migration* statistical release starting from the January 2014 statistics. This change has become necessary as a result of the implementation of the enhanced Movement Control System (e-MCS) at the country's ports of entry. Currently, the new system (e-MCS) is operational at over 95% of the country's ports of entry. The change affects the identification of Transit Travellers that are currently categorised under Direction instead of Purpose of Movement. With this revision, Table 1 and Table 2 in the release now include a category for Transit while all tables reporting on tourists exclude transit travellers.

### 5.1 Introduction

Legal movements across South African borders, as well as legal immigration into South Africa, fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Home Affairs (DHA). Stats SA then processes, analyses and publishes this information.

Administrative data sources from the DHA, that is, information from all the country's ports of entry and applications for permanent residence, constitute the only comprehensive source of information on foreign arrivals and departures, documented immigrants and emigrants. The information from this source of data provides the best national coverage (both in terms of space and time) of the population movements of South African residents and foreign travellers. The data can be used for the following:

- To estimate, monitor and understand salient characteristics of foreign travellers and volumes of South African residents travelling outside South Africa.
- To provide information that can be used to (a) assess the extent of government's progress in strengthening bilateral political and economic relations by assessing the number of international tourist arrivals, and (b) benchmark surveys focusing on the demand for local tourism services by foreign travellers.

### 5.2 Purpose of the statistical release

This release reports on arrivals, departures and transit travellers of South African residents and foreign travellers. Detailed information on the age and sex distribution; mode of travel; national and regional distribution; and purpose of travel of overnight visitors or tourists are also provided.

### 5.3 Scope and coverage

The release covers data collected by DHA officials on travellers who departed from or entered the Republic of South Africa (RSA).

### 5.4 Data

Information published in this release is based on data obtained from the following data sources within the DHA:

- Data routinely collected by immigration officers at all road, air and sea entry ports on all travellers (South African residents and foreign travellers) arriving into or departing from South Africa are captured into the DHA's population Movement Control System (MCS). The counts/statistics relate to the number of individual movements, rather than to the number of people. Hence, the multiple movements of individual people during the calendar month are each counted separately. Generally, the data are collected directly from travel documents either by scanning or capturing onto the ports' electronic database. No forms or cards are used (except on rare occasions when the capturing system is down) to collect information from travellers. Individual ports regularly transmit data onto the national database at the head office of the DHA.
- Stats SA receives downloaded data covering a particular calendar month from the DHA.

- As part of data interrogation, data from O.R. Tambo International Airport, which has the highest volume of travellers, are compared with passenger statistics from the Airports Company of South Africa (ACSA). As expected, in any specific month, an increase in the volume of passengers reported by ACSA is also reflected in an increase in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. A similar pattern has also been observed when the volume of travellers decreased. In August 2019, the DHA data was 3,5% higher than that of ACSA.

## 5.5 Limitations

### 5.5.1 Outbound tourists

The information on the total number of arrivals and departures of South African residents is collected from the scanning of passports. However, data on the country visited are not collected from passengers; country of final destination; intended duration of stay and purpose of visit. With this limitation, it is impossible to identify the number of tourists from the data on South African residents.

### 5.5.2 Purpose of visit

The holiday category includes tourists who came for vacation, visiting friends and relatives, shopping and other personal reasons such as attending weddings. While it's possible to separate 'visiting friends and relatives' from the broad category of Holiday, shopping and other reasons for visiting South Africa are all combined with vacation in the DHA movement control system. Discussions are in progress with the Department of Home Affairs to capture vacation and shopping as separate categories for a clearer breakdown of tourists by purpose of visit.

## 5.6 Definition of terms

### 5.6.1 Definitions used by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)

**Traveller** is someone who moves between different geographical locations for any purpose and any duration.

**Visitor** refers to any person travelling to a place other than that of his/her usual environment for less than 12 months and whose main purpose of the trip is other than the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited.

**Same-Day visitor** is a visitor who visits a place for less than one night.

**Tourist** (overnight visitor) is a visitor who stays at least one night in collective or private accommodation in the place visited.

**Tourism** comprises the activities of persons travelling to, and staying in places outside their usual environment, for not more than one consecutive year, for leisure, business and other purposes. The usual environment of a person consists of a certain area around his/her place of residence, plus all the other places he/she frequently visits.

### 5.6.2 Definitions used specifically in this release

**South African resident** refers to either a South African citizen or a non-South African citizen with a South African permanent residence permit.

**Foreign traveller** refers to a traveller who is not a South African citizen or permanent resident.

**Region** refers to the following country classification:

- Overseas: Europe, North America, Central and South America, Australasia, the Middle East and Asia.
- Africa: SADC and 'other' Africa (East and Central Africa, West Africa and North Africa).

**Country** refers to individual countries within a region. The country of residence is used. The country of residence should not be confused with the country from which the visitor travelled.

**Africa** refers to all the countries in Africa (both mainland and island countries).

**SADC** refers to the fourteen countries, excluding South Africa, which belong to the Southern African Development Community.

**'Other' African** refers to all non-SADC African countries.

**Overseas** refers to all countries outside Africa.

**Trip** refers to the arrival and departure of a visitor in a specified month.

## 5.7 Symbols used

- = nil

< = less than

## 5.8 Rounding off

Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

## 6. General information

Stats SA publishes approximately 300 different statistical releases each year. It is not economically viable to produce them in more than one of South Africa's eleven official languages, since the releases are used extensively, not only locally but also by international economic and social-scientific communities. Stats SA releases are published in English.

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### Advance release calendar

An advance release calendar is disseminated at [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za)

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