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## **STATISTICAL RELEASE**

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# **Tourism and migration**

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**Preface**

This monthly statistical release provides information on South African residents and foreign travellers who entered or left South Africa in August 2020. Specific focus is on foreign arrivals who entered the country during this month. The foreign arrivals are classified by region of residence. Details of their mode of travel; age and sex distribution are also provided.

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## 1. Key findings

### 1.1 Travellers

#### 1.1.1 Number of travellers

Number of travellers between August 2019 and August 2020 are not necessarily comparable due to the hard lockdown which the country introduced on the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020. A general expectation is that no visitors would be observed, as we may see in the analysis that follows, where foreign travellers coming in and leaving the country during this period were fewer than can be expected.

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 205 132 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry/exit in August 2020. As presented in Table 1 on page 5, these travellers were made up of 66 892 South African residents and 138 240 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 30 547 arrivals, 36 345 departures and no travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 67 051, 71 148 and 41, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in August 2019 and August 2020 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and travellers in transit decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 93,7% (from 482 712 in August 2019 to 30 547 in August 2020). Departures decreased by 93,0% (from 522 927 in August 2019 to 36 345 in August 2020), and transits decreased by 100,0% (from 976 in August 2019 to 0 in August 2020). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 95,1% (from 1 377 914 in August 2019 to 67 051 in August 2020), departures decreased by 94,1% (from 1 215 970 in August 2019 to 71 148 in August 2020) whereas transits decreased by almost 100,0% (from 98 320 in August 2019 to 41 in August 2020).

A comparison between the movements in July 2020 and August 2020 indicates that the volume of arrivals increased for South African residents but decreased for foreign travellers, whereas, the volume of departures increased for both groups of travellers. Travellers in transit decreased for foreign travellers and there were no South African residents in transit in both July 2020 and August 2020. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 0,2% (from 30 473 in July 2020 to 30 547 in August 2020) and departures increased by 9,9% (from 33 084 in July 2020 to 36 345 in August 2020). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 2,7% (from 68 914 in July 2020 to 67 051 in August 2020), departures increased by 1,0% (from 70 413 in July 2020 to 71 148 in August 2020) whereas transits decreased by 22,6% (from 53 in July 2020 to 41 in August 2020).

#### 1.1.2 Mode of travel of travellers

Information presented in Table 2 on page 6 shows that in August 2020, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 180 023 (87,8%) of the 205 132 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 24 461 (11,9%). Compared to the use of air and land transport, a smaller number of travellers, 648 (0,3%) used sea transport. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 6 081 (19,9%) came by air, 24 386 (79,8%) came by road and 80 (0,3%) arrived by sea transport. For departures, 10 265 (28,2%) used air, 25 922 (71,3%) used road and 158 (0,4%) left by sea transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 1 816 (2,7%) arrived by air, 64 854 (96,7%) came by road and 381 (0,6%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 6 258 (8,8%) foreign travellers left by air, 64 861 (91,2%) left by road and 29 (less than 0,1%) left by sea transport. A small number of travellers in transit, 41 (100,0%) used air transport.

#### 1.1.3 Mode of travel of foreign arrivals by region of residence

The country of residence of foreign arrivals is used to categorise them according to their respective region. For the purpose of this release, the presentation of the analysis is only up to the regional level due to a small number of foreign arrivals. Information on the specific region of foreign arrivals and the mode of travel used to enter South Africa is provided in Table 3 on page 7. In August 2020, 1 310 (67,2%) of the 1 950 overseas foreign travellers arrived in the country by air transport, whilst 304 (15,6%) came in by road transport and 336 (17,2%) arrived by sea transport. Foreign arrivals from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 64 474 (99,4%), 371 (0,6%) came by air travel and 43 (0,1%) came by sea.

Foreign arrivals from 'other' African countries arrived in South Africa by air 80 (58,4%), whereas 55 (40,1%) came in by road and 2 (1,5%) came by sea.

#### **1.1.4 Regional and national distribution**

In August 2020, South Africa received 1 950 foreign arrivals from overseas regions and their distribution was as follows: Europe, 953 (48,9%); Asia, 650 (33,3%); North America, 229 (11,7%); Central and South America, 80 (4,1%); Australasia, 20 (1,0%) and the Middle East, 18 (0,9%).

Virtually, most foreign arrivals from Africa, 64 888 (99,8%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining foreign arrivals from Africa is as follows: East and Central Africa, 70 (0,1%); West Africa, 47 (0,1%); and North Africa 20 (less than 0,1%) as shown in Table 3 on page 7.

#### **1.1.5 Sex and age distribution**

Table 4 on page 8 shows that in August 2020, there were 63 507 (94,7%) male and 3 544 (5,3%) female foreign arrivals. Foreign arrivals from overseas were made up of 1 440 (73,8%) male foreign arrivals and 510 (26,2%) female foreign arrivals. There were 61 930 (95,4%) male and 2 958 (4,6%) female foreign arrivals from SADC countries. Foreign arrivals from 'other' African countries were made up of 96 (70,1%) male and 41 (29,9%) female foreign arrivals. The majority of foreign arrivals were aged between 35 and 44 years [29 436 (43,9%)], followed by the age group 45 to 54 years [15 229 (22,7%)] and age group 25 and 34 years [14 629 (21,8%)].

## 2. Tables

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

Travel Direction	August 2019	July 2020	August 2020	% Change Jul 2020 – Aug 2020	% Change Aug 2019 – Aug 2020
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 698 819</b>	<b>202 937</b>	<b>205 132</b>	<b>1,1%</b>	<b>-94,5%</b>
<b>South African residents</b>	<b>1 006 615</b>	<b>63 557</b>	<b>66 892</b>	<b>5,2%</b>	<b>-93,4%</b>
Arrivals	482 712	30 473	30 547	0,2%	-93,7%
Departures	522 927	33 084	36 345	9,9%	-93,0%
Transits	976	-	-	-	-100,0%
<b>Foreign travellers</b>	<b>2 692 204</b>	<b>139 380</b>	<b>138 240</b>	<b>-0,8%</b>	<b>-94,9%</b>
Arrivals	1 377 914	68 914	67 051	-2,7%	-95,1%
Departures	1 215 970	70 413	71 148	1,0%	-94,1%
Transits	98 320	53	41	-22,6%	-100,0%

**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 Airports	Total		
<b>Total</b>	<b>205 132</b>	<b>3 684</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>20 625</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>24 461</b>	<b>180 023</b>	<b>648</b>
<b>South African residents</b>	<b>66 892</b>	<b>2 355</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>13 853</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>16 346</b>	<b>50 308</b>	<b>238</b>
Arrivals	<b>30 547</b>	702	19	5 310	50	<b>6 081</b>	24 386	80
Departures	<b>36 345</b>	1 653	12	8 543	57	<b>10 265</b>	25 922	158
Transit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Foreign travellers</b>	<b>138 240</b>	<b>1 329</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6 772</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8 115</b>	<b>129 715</b>	<b>410</b>
Arrivals	<b>67 051</b>	432	4	1 374	6	<b>1 816</b>	64 854	381
Departures	<b>71 148</b>	897	2	5 357	2	<b>6 258</b>	64 861	29
Transit	<b>41</b>	-	-	41	-	<b>41</b>	-	-

**Table 3 – Number of foreign arrivals by region of residence and mode of travel, August 2020**

Region of residence	August 2020	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Air		
<b>Total</b>	<b>67 051</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1 374</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1 816</b>	<b>64 854</b>	<b>381</b>
<b>Overseas</b>	<b>1 950</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1 310</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>336</b>
Europe	953	332	-	370	-	702	79	172
North America	229	21	-	177	2	200	29	-
Central and South America	80	-	-	67	-	67	11	2
Australasia	20	1	-	13	-	14	2	4
Middle East	18	-	-	18	-	18	-	-
Asia	650	21	-	288	-	309	183	158
<b>Africa</b>	<b>65 025</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>64 529</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>SADC</b>	<b>64 888</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>64 474</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>'Other' African</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>2</b>
East and Central Africa	70	-	-	42	-	42	28	
West Africa	47	5	-	25	-	30	16	1
North Africa	20	-	-	8	-	8	11	1
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>-</b>



**Table 4 – Number of foreign arrivals by sex, age group and region of residence**

Sex	Age group	August 2020	Region of residence			
			Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
<b>All</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>67 051</b>	<b>1 950</b>	<b>64 888</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>76</b>
	0-14	792	175	605	12	-
	15-24	1 845	164	1 665	16	-
	25-34	14 629	497	14 102	25	5
	35-44	29 436	529	28 839	45	23
	45-54	15 229	355	14 822	27	25
	55-64	4 432	186	4 215	9	22
	65+	688	44	640	3	1
<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>63 507</b>	<b>1 440</b>	<b>61 930</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>41</b>
	0-14	384	89	292	3	-
	15-24	1 239	101	1 128	10	-
	25-34	13 932	394	13 519	17	2
	35-44	28 550	423	28 077	37	13
	45-54	14 624	264	14 324	22	14
	55-64	4 185	143	4 025	5	12
	65+	593	26	565	2	-
<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>3 544</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>2 958</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>35</b>
	0-14	408	86	313	9	-
	15-24	606	63	537	6	-
	25-34	697	103	583	8	3
	35-44	886	106	762	8	10
	45-54	605	91	498	5	11
	55-64	247	43	190	4	10
	65+	95	18	75	1	1

### 3. Explanatory notes

#### NOTE TO USERS

Though this release does not include tourists, we keep this concepts as the will be relevant once data on visitors become available. In January 2014, Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), made changes in the *Tourism and Migration* statistical release. 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.

#### 3.1 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.

#### 3.2 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 of foreign travellers are also provided.

#### 3.3 Scope and coverage

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

#### 3.4 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 can be 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 2020, the DHA data was 2 219,0% higher than that of ACSA.

### 3.5 Limitations

#### 3.5.1 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.

#### 3.5.2 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.

### 3.6 Definition of terms

#### 3.6.1 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.

#### 3.6.2 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.

### 3.7 Symbols used

- = nil

< = less than

### 3.8 Rounding off

Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

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