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STATISTICAL RELEASE

P0351

Tourism and migration

August 2021

**Embargoed until:
26 October 2021
10:00**

ENQUIRIES:

Tshwaro Gae
079 511 9917

FORTHCOMING ISSUE:

September 2021

EXPECTED RELEASE DATE

30 November 2021

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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 2021. 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; purpose of visit; age and sex distribution are also provided.

Risenga Maluleke
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 770 617 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry/exit in August 2021. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 260 662 South African residents and 509 955 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 124 804 arrivals, 135 733 departures and 125 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 268 946, 228 828 and 12 181 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in August 2020 and August 2021 is not included as there was a hard lockdown in August 2020 and only essential services providers were allowed to travel.

A comparison between the movements in July 2021 and August 2021 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 16,1% (from 107 542 in July 2021 to 124 804 in August 2021), departures increased by 19,0% (from 114 044 in July 2021 to 135 733 in August 2021) and transits increased by 5,9% (from 118 in July 2021 to 125 in August 2021). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 23,7% (from 217 373 in July 2021 to 268 946 in August 2021), departures increased by 13,4% (from 201 821 in July 2021 to 228 828 in August 2021) and transits increased by 6,5% (from 11 439 in July 2021 to 12 181 in August 2021).

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. 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 2021, 45 917 (17,1%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 223 029 (82,9%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in August 2021 but did not depart in August 2021 [78 022 (35,0%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in August 2021 and left in August 2021 [64 319 (28,8%)];
and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in August 2021 [80 688 (36,2%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In August 2021, there were 37 392 (16,8%) same-day visitors and 185 637 (83,2%) tourists. Between July 2021 and August 2021, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 22,4% (from 30 538 in July 2021 to 37 392 in August 2021) and that of tourists increased by 22,7% (from 151 264 in July 2021 to 185 637 in August 2021).

1.1.2 Mode of travel of travellers

Information presented in Table 2 on page 10, shows the number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction and mode of travel. In August 2021, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 547 689 (71,1%) of the 770 617 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 216 132 (28,0%). Compared to air and land transport, a smaller number of travellers, 6 796 (0,9%) used sea transport into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 38 993 (31,2%) came by air, 85 673 (68,6%) came by road and 138 (0,1%) arrived by sea. For departures, 49 312 (36,3%) used air, 86 275 (63,6%) used road and 146 (0,1%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 125 (100,0%) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 60 355 (22,4%) arrived by air, 205 433 (76,4%) came by road and 3 158 (1,2%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 55 166 (24,1%) foreign travellers left by air, 170 308 (74,4%) left by road and 3 354 (1,5%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 12 181 (100,0%) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that of the 37 392 same-day visitors, a majority, 31 128 (83,2%) arrived in the country by road, 6 257 (16,7%) flew into the country and seven (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. Information on tourists shows that 140 386 (75,6%) used road transport, 45 228 (24,4%) came by air transport and 23 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport.

1.2 Tourists

1.2.1 Mode of travel of tourists

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 2021, 25 860 (91,8%) of the 28 157 overseas tourists arrived in the country by air transport, whilst 2 274 (8,1%) came in by road transport and 23 (0,1%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 137 656 (89,7%) and 15 863 (10,3%) came by air. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 3 310 (91,5%) and 308 (8,5%) used road transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In August 2021, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 12 586 (44,7%); North America, 9 387 (33,3%); Asia, 3 701 (13,1%); The Middle East, 1 371 (4,9%); Central and South America, 851 (3,0%) and Australasia, 261 (0,9%).

Figure 1 on page 7 indicates that the ten leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in August 2021 were: United States of America (USA), 8 808 (31,3%); United Kingdom (UK), 2 025 (7,2%); Germany, 2 008 (7,1%); France, 1 729 (6,1%); India, 1 613 (5,7%); The Netherlands, 1 231 (4,4%); Spain, 806 (2,9%); Saudi Arabia, 765 (2,7%); Italy, 594 (2,1%) and Canada, 579 (2,1%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 71,6 % of all tourists from overseas countries.

Virtually, most tourists from Africa, 153 519 (97,7%), came from SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: East and Central Africa, 1 691 (1,1%); West Africa, 1 548 (1,0%) and North Africa 379 (0,2%). Ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in August 2021 were: Mozambique 46 568 (30,3%); Zimbabwe, 30 981 (20,2%); Lesotho, 29 388 (19,1%); Eswatini, 16 365 (10,7%); Botswana, 8 844 (5,8%); Namibia, 7 561 (4,9%); Zambia, 5 825 (3,8%); Malawi, 4 986 (3,2%); Tanzania, 1 138 (0,7%) and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), 941 (0,6%) (see Figure 2 on page 7). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,4% of all tourists from the SADC countries.

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in August 2021 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8, were: Nigeria, 758 (21,0%); Kenya, 588 (16,3%); Ghana, 503 (13,9%); Uganda 273 (7,5%); Gabon, 255 (7,0%); Ethiopia, 200 (5,5%); Cameroon, 182 (5,0%); Egypt, 176 (4,9%); Congo, 108 (3,0%) and The Sudan, 72 (2,0%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 86,1% of all tourists from 'other' African countries.

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

Table 4 on pages 15 to 18, shows the number of tourist by country of residence and purpose of visit. It is observed that in August 2021, the majority of tourists, 168 075 (90,5%), were in South Africa for holiday¹ compared to 13 692 (7,4%); 3 515 (1,9%) and 355 (0,2%) who were in South Africa for business, study and for medical treatment respectively.

Within the overseas regions, North America had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for holiday, 98,2% (9 220) followed by Australasia, 95,0% (248); Central and South America, 94,4% (803); The Middle East, 94,1% (1 290); Europe, 93,0% (11 706) and Asia, 93,0% (3 442).

Asia, 4,1% (152) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business, followed by Europe, 2,3% (292); Central and South America, 2,2% (19); Australasia, 1,1% (3); North America, 0,7% (68) and The Middle East, 0,6% (8).

The Middle East, 5,3% (73) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to study, followed by Europe, 4,4% (552); Australasia, 3,4% (9); Central and South America, 3,2% (27); Asia, 2,5% (92) and North America, 1,0% (92).

Asia had 0,4% (15) of its tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by Australasia, 0,4% (1); Europe, 0,3% (36); Central and South America, 0,2% (2) and North America, 0,1% (7). The Middle East had no tourists who came to South Africa for medical treatment.

The majority of African tourists, 141 034 (89,8%) 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:

- Holiday makers constituted 89,8% (137 891) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 86,9% (3 143) from 'other' African countries. Information on the regions of 'other' African countries shows that 91,2% (1 412) of tourists from West Africa were on holiday, followed by tourists from East and Central Africa, 85,0% (1 437) and North Africa 77,6% (294).
- Business persons constituted 8,5% (13 063) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 2,2% (81) from 'other' African countries. North Africa, 3,7% (14) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes, followed by East and Central Africa, 3,0% (50) and West Africa, 1,1% (17).
- Students constituted 9,8% (355) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 1,5% (2 314) from SADC countries. North Africa, 18,2% (69) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes, followed by East and Central Africa, 10,3% (175) and West Africa, 7,2% (111).
- Medical treatment tourists constituted 1,1% (39) of tourists from 'other' African countries, while those from SADC constituted 0,2% (251) of its tourists. East and Central Africa, 1,7% (29) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by North Africa, 0,5% (2) and West Africa, 0,5% (8).

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 19, shows the number of tourists by country of residence, sex and age group. There were 127 250 (68,5%) male and 58 387 (31,5%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 16 627 (59,1%) male tourists and 11 530 (40,9%) female tourists. There were 108 152 (70,4%) male and 45 367 (29,6%) female tourists from SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 2 264 (62,6%) male and 1 354 (37,4%) female tourists.

The ages of tourists were categorised into seven broad groups (see Table 5 for a detailed classification). The results presented in Table 5 further show that the majority of tourists were aged between 35 and 44 years [63 176 (34,0%)]. Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results show that the highest proportion of tourists from 'other' African countries [1 037 (28,7%)] and those from overseas countries [5 506 (19,6%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years, whereas those from SADC countries [56 917 (37,1%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years.

¹ 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 25 for a more detailed discussion.

The second highest proportion of tourists from 'other' African countries [1 028 (28,4%)] and those from overseas countries [5 119 (18,2%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years, whereas those from SADC countries [35 906 (23,4%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years. The median ages of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African countries were 39, 39 and 34 years respectively. The proportion of tourists younger than 15 years was higher among tourists from overseas countries, 9,3% (2 625) followed by those from 'other' African countries, 8,9% (321) compared to those from SADC countries, 2,9% (4 518).

A comparison of the three regions shows higher proportions of the elderly (those aged 65+) among both male and female tourists from overseas. This comprised of 10,4% (1 722) males and 10,3% (1 187) females from overseas countries. However, tourists aged 65 years and older from the other two regions comprised of less than 3,5% of both male and female tourists: from SADC countries, elderly tourists were made up of 1,5% (1 645) males and 3,0% (1 367) females; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 1,5% (35) and 1,6% (21) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in August 2021

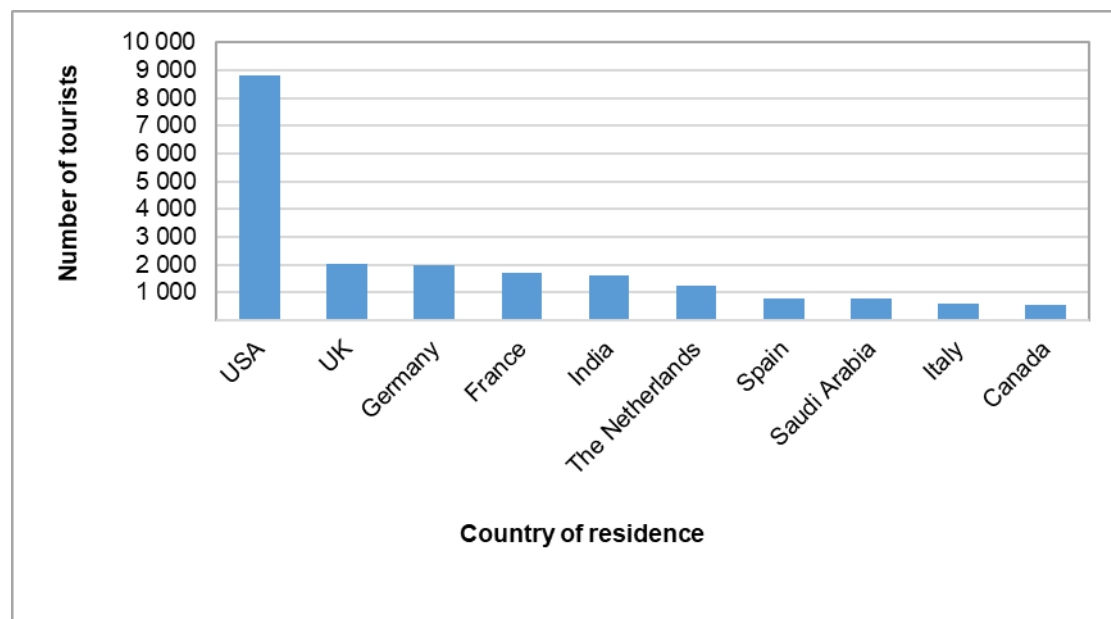


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in August 2021

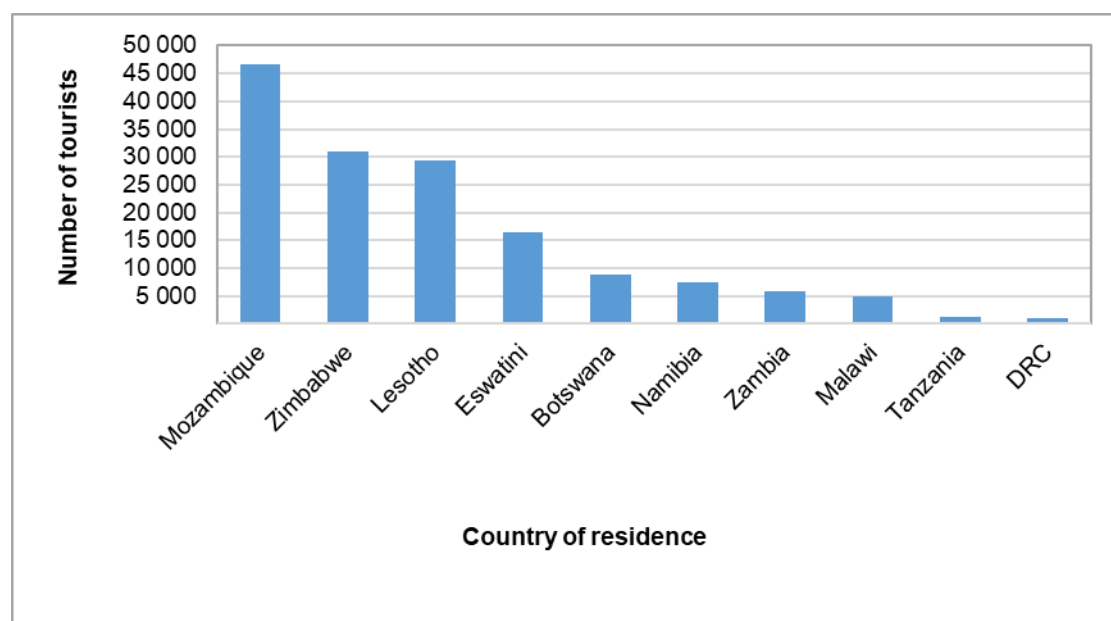
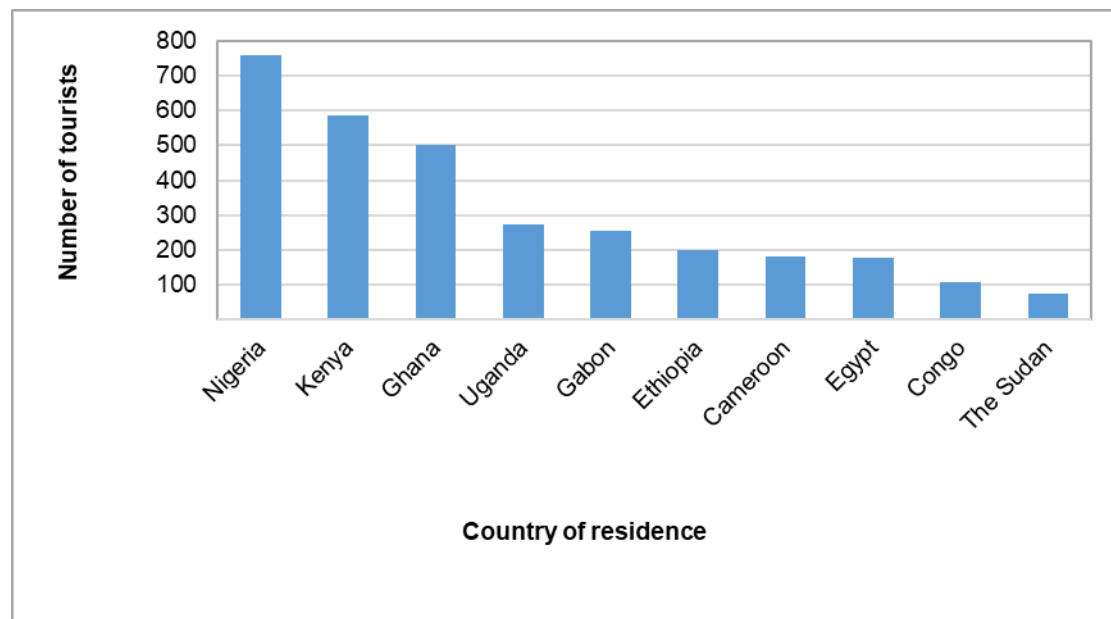


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in August 2021

3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	July 2021	August 2021	% Change Jul 2021 – Aug 2021
Total	652 337	770 617	18,1%
South African residents	221 704	260 662	17,6%
Arrivals	107 542	124 804	16,1%
Departures	114 044	135 733	19,0%
Transits	118	125	5,9%
Foreign travellers	430 633	509 955	18,4%
Arrivals	217 373	268 946	23,7%
Departures	201 821	228 828	13,4%
Transits	11 439	12 181	6,5%
Foreign arrivals	217 373	268 946	23,7%
Non-visitors	35 571	45 917	29,1%
Visitors	181 802	223 029	22,7%
Visitors	181 802	223 029	22,7%
Arrivals only	66 376	78 022	17,5%
Single trips	47 875	64 319	34,3%
Multiple trips	67 551	80 688	19,4%
Visitors	181 802	223 029	22,7%
Same-day	30 538	37 392	22,4%
Overnight (Tourists)	151 264	185 637	22,7%

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	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	770 617	36 010	3 872	173 417	2 833	216 132	547 689	6 796
South African residents	260 662	14 688	1 824	70 014	1 904	88 430	171 948	284
Arrivals	124 804	6 014	617	31 512	850	38 993	85 673	138
Departures	135 733	8 670	1 207	38 381	1 054	49 312	86 275	146
Transit	125	4	-	121	-	125	-	-
Foreign travellers	509 955	21 322	2 048	103 403	929	127 702	375 741	6 512
Arrivals	268 946	11 321	1 077	47 577	380	60 355	205 433	3 158
Departures	228 828	9 864	971	43 782	549	55 166	170 308	3 354
Transit	12 181	137	-	12 044	-	12 181	-	-
Visitors	223 029	8 341	347	42 553	244	51 485	171 514	30
Same-day	37 392	195	6	6 029	27	6 257	31 128	7
Tourist	185 637	8 146	341	36 524	217	45 228	140 386	23

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, August 2021

Country of residence	August 2021	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	185 637	8 146	341	36 524	217	45 228	140 386	23
Overseas	28 157	6 109	281	19 330	140	25 860	2 274	23
Europe	12 586	3 398	134	7 919	44	11 495	1 089	2
Austria	231	76	1	141	-	218	13	-
Belgium	501	120	1	337	2	460	41	-
France	1 729	382	2	1 226	3	1 613	115	1
Germany	2 008	726	13	1 167	2	1 908	100	-
Ireland	212	46	2	151	-	199	13	-
Italy	594	184	8	346	4	542	52	-
Portugal	379	21	-	173	2	196	183	-
Russian Federation	524	260	1	237	1	499	25	-
Spain	806	200	1	533	2	736	70	-
Sweden	219	57	5	148	4	214	5	-
Switzerland	550	154	6	362	2	524	26	-
The Netherlands	1 231	428	7	705	5	1 145	86	-
Turkey	271	19	20	178	-	217	54	-
UK	2 025	393	33	1 361	17	1 804	221	-
Other	1 306	332	34	854	-	1 220	85	1
North America	9 387	1 464	27	7 497	81	9 069	318	-
Canada	579	107	1	426	4	538	41	-
USA	8 808	1 357	26	7 071	77	8 531	277	-
Central and South America	851	241	9	473	4	727	124	-
Argentina	83	60	-	21	-	81	2	-
Brazil	423	117	8	236	-	361	62	-
Mexico	130	32	-	94	3	129	1	-
Other	215	32	1	122	1	156	59	-
Australasia	261	37	4	194	1	236	24	1
Australia	213	32	4	157	1	194	19	-
New Zealand	46	5	-	35	-	40	5	1
Other	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, August 2021 (continued)

Country of residence	August 2021	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Middle East	1 371	687	13	623	1	1 324	47	-
Israel	199	33	1	147	1	182	17	-
Qatar	124	72	-	52	-	124	-	-
Saudi Arabia	765	518	1	246	-	765	-	-
Other	283	64	11	178	-	253	30	-
Asia	3 701	282	94	2 624	9	3 009	672	20
Bangladesh	418	34	8	336	-	378	40	-
China	411	15	-	301	1	317	94	-
India	1 613	114	51	1 166	2	1 333	273	7
Japan	114	7	3	96	5	111	3	-
Pakistan	517	39	20	304	-	363	152	2
Philippines	226	17	5	183	1	206	10	10
South Korea	120	5	2	87	-	94	26	-
Sri Lanka	32	3	1	4	-	8	24	-
Taiwan	59	13	-	11	-	24	35	-
Thailand	81	16	-	59	-	75	6	-
Other	110	19	4	77	-	100	9	1
Africa	157 137	2 027	60	17 011	75	19 173	137 964	-
SADC	153 519	1 615	54	14 127	67	15 863	137 656	-
Angola	841	21	-	653	5	679	162	-
Botswana	8 844	4	3	814	8	829	8 015	-
DRC	941	76	-	774	7	857	84	-
Eswatini	16 365	-	2	165	3	170	16 195	-
Lesotho	29 388	3	2	130	-	135	29 253	-
Madagascar	28	7	-	20	-	27	1	-
Malawi	4 986	11	-	847	6	864	4 122	-
Mauritius	37	3	-	18	-	21	16	-
Mozambique	46 568	-	-	935	10	945	45 623	-
Namibia	7 561	737	-	823	1	1 561	6 000	-
Seychelles	16	-	-	9	-	9	7	-
Tanzania	1 138	69	2	487	12	570	568	-
Zambia	5 825	9	37	1 202	2	1 250	4 575	-
Zimbabwe	30 981	675	8	7 250	13	7 946	23 035	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, August 2021 (continued)

Country of residence	August 2021	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
'Other' African	3 618	412	6	2 884	8	3 310	308	-
East and Central Africa	1 691	187	-	1 371	5	1 563	128	-
Burundi	13	2	-	9	2	13	-	-
Cameroon	182	11	-	158	1	170	12	-
Central African Republic	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Chad	11	-	-	11	-	11	-	-
Comoros	6	-	-	6	-	6	-	-
Congo	108	17	-	88	2	107	1	-
Djibouti	3	-	-	3	-	3	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	5	-	-	5	-	5	-	-
Eritrea	18	1	-	15	-	16	2	-
Ethiopia	200	12	-	159	-	171	29	-
Gabon	255	19	-	229	-	248	7	-
Kenya	588	110	-	437	-	547	41	-
Rwanda	15	1	-	10	-	11	4	-
Somalia	13	2	-	9	-	11	2	-
Uganda	273	12	-	231	-	243	30	-
West Africa	1 548	166	2	1 211	1	1 380	168	-
Benin	41	8	-	32	-	40	1	-
Burkina Faso	14	-	-	10	-	10	4	-
Cape Verde Island	3	-	-	2	-	2	1	-
Côte d'Ivoire	60	8	-	43	1	52	8	-
Gambia	8	-	-	7	-	7	1	-
Ghana	503	48	-	436	-	484	19	-
Guinea	33	3	-	18	-	21	12	-
Guinea-Bissau	3	-	-	2	-	2	1	-
Liberia	12	-	-	12	-	12	-	-
Mali	32	-	-	4	-	4	28	-
Mauritania	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Niger	9	-	-	9	-	9	-	-
Nigeria	758	95	2	571	-	668	90	-
Senegal	49	4	-	43	-	47	2	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, August 2021 (concluded)

Country of residence	August 2021	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Sierra Leone	8	-	-	7	-	7	1	-
Togo	14	-	-	14	-	14	-	-
North Africa	379	59	4	302	2	367	12	-
Algeria	26	2	-	24	-	26	-	-
Egypt	176	10	-	162	-	172	4	-
Libya	24	3	2	17	-	22	2	-
Morocco	24	3	-	17	-	20	4	-
South Sudan	25	6	-	17	2	25	-	-
The Sudan	72	25	-	45	-	70	2	-
Tunisia	31	10	2	19	-	31	-	-
Western Sahara	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Unspecified	343	10	-	183	2	195	148	-

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

Country of residence	August 2021	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Total	185 637	13 692	168 075	3 515	355
Overseas	28 157	542	26 709	845	61
Europe	12 586	292	11 706	552	36
Austria	231	8	219	4	-
Belgium	501	8	471	21	1
France	1 729	29	1 482	213	5
Germany	2 008	56	1 856	96	-
Ireland	212	5	198	8	1
Italy	594	26	548	19	1
Portugal	379	5	367	7	-
Russian Federation	524	9	510	5	-
Spain	806	16	774	16	-
Sweden	219	6	193	20	-
Switzerland	550	11	526	13	-
The Netherlands	1 231	29	1 168	27	7
Turkey	271	11	251	9	-
UK	2 025	39	1 913	55	18
Other	1 306	34	1 230	39	3
North America	9 387	68	9 220	92	7
Canada	579	9	560	8	2
USA	8 808	59	8 660	84	5
Central and South America	851	19	803	27	2
Argentina	83	-	82	-	1
Brazil	423	15	393	15	-
Mexico	130	1	125	4	-
Other	215	3	203	8	1
Australasia	261	3	248	9	1
Australia	213	3	202	7	1
New Zealand	46	-	44	2	-
Other	2	-	2	-	-

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

Country of residence	August 2021	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Middle East	1 371	8	1 290	73	-
Israel	199	2	192	5	-
Qatar	124	-	113	11	-
Saudi Arabia	765	2	739	24	-
Other	283	4	246	33	-
Asia	3 701	152	3 442	92	15
Bangladesh	418	11	403	3	1
China	411	27	380	3	1
India	1 613	86	1 473	49	5
Japan	114	2	99	9	4
Pakistan	517	7	504	5	1
Philippines	226	1	220	3	2
South Korea	120	4	108	8	-
Sri Lanka	32	1	30	1	-
Taiwan	59	9	50	-	-
Thailand	81	-	80	-	1
Other	110	4	95	11	-
Africa	157 137	13 144	141 034	2 669	290
SADC	153 519	13 063	137 891	2 314	251
Angola	841	4	784	34	19
Botswana	8 844	1 191	7 412	174	67
DRC	941	32	828	60	21
Eswatini	16 365	1 070	15 102	179	14
Lesotho	29 388	892	27 699	768	29
Madagascar	28	1	25	2	-
Malawi	4 986	252	4 693	33	8
Mauritius	37	-	33	4	-
Mozambique	46 568	1 141	45 349	61	17
Namibia	7 561	3 404	3 723	417	17
Seychelles	16	-	16	-	-
Tanzania	1 138	80	1 005	48	5
Zambia	5 825	1 970	3 792	59	4
Zimbabwe	30 981	3 026	27 430	475	50

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

Country of residence	August 2021	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
'Other' African	3 618	81	3 143	355	39
East and Central Africa	1 691	50	1 437	175	29
Burundi	13	-	10	1	2
Cameroon	182	2	155	17	8
Central African Republic	1	-	1	-	-
Chad	11	-	8	2	1
Comoros	6	-	6	-	-
Congo	108	2	83	16	7
Djibouti	3	-	3	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	5	1	3	1	-
Eritrea	18	-	18	-	-
Ethiopia	200	4	185	7	4
Gabon	255	-	239	16	-
Kenya	588	33	474	78	3
Rwanda	15	-	13	2	-
Somalia	13	-	13	-	-
Uganda	273	8	226	35	4
West Africa	1 548	17	1 412	111	8
Benin	41	-	38	3	-
Burkina Faso	14	-	13	1	-
Cape Verde Island	3	-	3	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	60	-	51	5	4
Gambia	8	-	8	-	-
Ghana	503	5	479	18	1
Guinea	33	-	26	7	-
Guinea-Bissau	3	-	3	-	-
Liberia	12	-	12	-	-
Mali	32	-	32	-	-
Mauritania	1	-	1	-	-
Niger	9	-	8	1	-
Nigeria	758	11	676	70	1
Senegal	49	1	44	4	-

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

Country of residence	August 2021	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Sierra Leone	8	-	7	1	-
Togo	14	-	11	1	2
North Africa	379	14	294	69	2
Algeria	26	1	21	4	-
Egypt	176	9	140	27	-
Libya	24	-	15	9	-
Morocco	24	-	19	5	-
South Sudan	25	2	18	3	2
The Sudan	72	2	55	15	-
Tunisia	31	-	25	6	-
Western Sahara	1	-	1	-	-
Unspecified	343	6	332	1	4

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

Sex	Age group	August 2021	Region			
			Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	185 637	28 157	153 519	3 618	343
	0-14	7 467	2 625	4 518	321	3
	15-24	13 887	3 340	10 006	524	17
	25-34	42 516	5 506	35 906	1 037	67
	35-44	63 176	5 119	56 917	1 028	112
	45-54	37 472	4 789	32 107	479	97
	55-64	15 139	3 869	11 053	173	44
	65+	5 980	2 909	3 012	56	3
Male	Total	127 250	16 627	108 152	2 264	207
	0-14	3 761	1 378	2 221	161	1
	15-24	7 309	1 764	5 249	290	6
	25-34	28 024	3 143	24 210	632	39
	35-44	46 814	3 339	42 700	707	68
	45-54	27 760	2 996	24 370	332	62
	55-64	10 178	2 285	7 757	107	29
	65+	3 404	1 722	1 645	35	2
Female	Total	58 387	11 530	45 367	1 354	136
	0-14	3 706	1247	2297	160	2
	15-24	6 578	1576	4757	234	11
	25-34	14 492	2363	11696	405	28
	35-44	16 362	1780	14217	321	44
	45-54	9 712	1793	7737	147	35
	55-64	4 961	1584	3296	66	15
	65+	2 576	1187	1367	21	1

4. Annexures

4.1 Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists by country of residence, Jan – Aug 2021

Country of residence	Jan – Aug 2021
Total	1 263 163
Overseas	158 239
Europe	75 329
Belgium	3 024
France	8 143
Germany	12 286
Ireland	1 251
Italy	3 161
Poland	1 272
Portugal	2 528
Russian Federation	5 636
Spain	3 083
Sweden	1 469
Switzerland	3 211
The Netherlands	6 597
Turkey	1 395
UK	13 498
Other	8 775
North America	45 077
Canada	2 838
USA	42 239
Central and South America	4 621
Argentina	324
Brazil	2 387
Mexico	693
Other	1 217

Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists by country of residence, Jan – Aug 2021 (continued)

Country of residence	Jan – Aug 2021
Australasia	2 073
Australia	1 691
New Zealand	372
Other	10
Middle East	6 404
Israel	1 339
Qatar	475
Saudi Arabia	2 970
Other	1 620
Asia	24 735
Bangladesh	1 445
China	4 387
India	9 141
Japan	695
Malaysia	378
Pakistan	3 844
Philippines	2 107
South Korea	701
Taiwan	383
Thailand	688
Other	966
Africa	1 102 626
SADC	1 075 186
Angola	4 412
Botswana	53 281
DRC	7 074
Eswatini	101 587

Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists by country of residence, Jan – Aug 2021 (continued)

Country of residence	Jan – Aug 2021
Lesotho	213 214
Madagascar	139
Malawi	31 109
Mauritius	399
Mozambique	314 788
Namibia	54 289
Seychelles	110
Tanzania	7 509
Zambia	40 363
Zimbabwe	246 912
‘Other’ African	27 440
East and Central Africa	11 725
Burundi	194
Cameroon	1 128
Central African Republic	25
Chad	74
Comoros	44
Congo	579
Djibouti	10
Equatorial Guinea	65
Eritrea	69
Ethiopia	1 620
Gabon	1 277
Kenya	4 021
Rwanda	140
São Tomé and Príncipe	8
Somalia	110
Uganda	2 361

Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists by country of residence, Jan – Aug 2021 (concluded)

Country of residence	Jan – Aug 2021
West Africa	13 042
Benin	272
Burkina Faso	78
Cape Verde Island	25
Côte d'Ivoire	272
Gambia	50
Ghana	4 058
Guinea	284
Guinea-Bissau	19
Liberia	106
Mali	227
Mauritania	9
Niger	46
Nigeria	7 126
Saint Helena	6
Senegal	330
Sierra Leone	82
Togo	52
North Africa	2 673
Algeria	174
Egypt	1 287
Libya	260
Morocco	208
South Sudan	157
The Sudan	438
Tunisia	145
Western Sahara	4
Unspecified	2 298

5. Explanatory notes

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 2021, the DHA data was 2,8% 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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