



stats sa

Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa, ISibalo House, Koch Street, Salvokop, Pretoria, 0002
www.statssa.gov.za, info@statssa.gov.za, Tel +27 12 310 8911

STATISTICAL RELEASE

P0351

Tourism and migration

December 2020

Embargoed until:
23 February 2021
10:00

ENQUIRIES:

User Information Services
Tel: (012) 310 8600

FORTHCOMING ISSUE:

January 2021

EXPECTED RELEASE DATE

30 March 2021

Dipalopalo tsa Aforikaborwa • Dipalopalo tsa Aforika Borwa • Ezazibalo zaseNingizimu Afrika • Tshitatistika Afrika Tshipembe • Tinhlayo Afrika-Dzonga

Statistieke Suid-Afrika • Dipalopalo tša Aforika Borwa • Telubalo zaseNingizimu Afrika • EzeeNkcukacha maNani zoMzantsi Afrika • Iimbalo zeSewula Afrika

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS



Contents

Preface	2
1. Key findings	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
2. Figures	7
Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in December 2019 and December 2020	7
Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in December 2019 and December 2020	7
Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in December 2019 and December 2020	8
3. Tables	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, December 2020	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
4. Explanatory notes	20
4.1 Introduction	20
4.2 Purpose of the statistical release	20
4.3 Scope and coverage	20
4.4 Data	20
4.5 Limitations	21
4.5.1 Outbound tourists	21
4.5.2 Purpose of visit	21
4.6 Definition of terms	21
4.6.1 Definitions used by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)	21
4.6.2 Definitions used specifically in this release	21
4.7 Symbols used	22
4.8 Rounding off	22
5. General information	22

Preface

This monthly statistical release provides information on South African residents and foreign travellers who entered or left South Africa in December 2020. 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 935 085 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry/exit in December 2020. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 333 579 South African residents and 601 506 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 151 362 arrivals, 182 144 departures and 73 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 279 539, 315 824 and 6 143, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in December 2019 and December 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 76,3% (from 638 708 in December 2019 to 151 362 in December 2020). Departures decreased by 78,3% (from 838 048 in December 2019 to 182 144 in December 2020) and transits decreased by 91,2% (from 832 in December 2019 to 73 in December 2020). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 82,1% (from 1 559 368 in December 2019 to 279 539 in December 2020), departures decreased by 79,8% (from 1 561 121 in December 2019 to 315 824 in December 2020) and transits decreased by 89,7% (from 59 373 in December 2019 to 6 143 in December 2020).

A comparison between the movements in November 2020 and December 2020 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and travellers in transit increased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 65,6% (from 91 418 in November 2020 to 151 362 in December 2020), departures increased by 108,9% (from 87 179 in November 2020 to 182 144 in December 2020) and transits increased by 108,6% (from 35 in November 2020 to 73 in December 2020). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 83,1% (from 152 694 in November 2020 to 279 539 in December 2020), departures increased by 131,8% (from 136 277 in November 2020 to 315 824 in December 2020), and transits increased by 98,3% (from 3 098 in November 2020 to 6 143 in December 2020).

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 December 2020, 39 102 (14,0%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 240 437 (86,0%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in December 2020 but did not depart in December 2020 [86 968 (36,2%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in December 2020 and left in December 2020 [73 761 (30,7%)]; and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in December 2020 [79 708 (33,2%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In December 2020, there were 42 378 (17,6%) same-day visitors and 198 059 (82,4%) tourists. Between December 2019 and December 2020, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 91,5% (from 500 145 in December 2019 to 42 378 in December 2020) and that of tourists decreased by 79,8% (from 981 038 in December 2019 to 198 059 in December 2020).

1.1.2 Mode of travel of travellers

Information presented in Table 2 on page 10, shows that in December 2020, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 686 059 (73,4%) of the 935 085 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 243 670 (26,1%). Compared to the use of air and land transport, a smaller number of travellers, 5 356 (0,6%) used sea transport. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 61 579 (40,7%) came by air, 89 591 (59,2%) came by road and 192 (0,1%) arrived by sea transport. For departures, 53 079 (29,1%) used air, 128 779 (70,7%) used road and 286 (0,2%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 73 (100,0%) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 64 104 (22,9%) arrived by air, 213 128 (76,2%) came by road and 2 307 (0,8%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 58 692 (18,6%) foreign travellers left by air, 254 561 (80,6%) left by road and 2 571 (0,8%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 6 143 (100,0%) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that of the 42 378 same-day visitors, an overwhelming majority, 38 893 (91,8%) arrived in the country by road, 3 473 (8,2%) flew into the country; and 12 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport. Information on tourists shows that 143 333 (72,4%) used road transport, 54 706 (27,6%) came by air transport and 20 (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 December 2020, 34 309 (94,4%) of the 36 357 overseas tourists arrived in the country by air transport, whilst 2 028 (5,6%) came in by road transport and 20 (0,1%) arrived by sea transport. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 140 836 (89,6%) and 16 422 (10,4%) came by air. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 3 755 (91,6%), with 345 (8,4%) using road transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In December 2020, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 26 880 (73,9%); North America, 4 665 (12,8%); Asia, 2 872 (7,9%); The Middle East, 748 (2,1%); Australasia, 601 (1,7%); and Central and South America, 591 (1,6%).

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 December 2020 were United Kingdom (UK), 8 567 (23,6%), Germany, 4 909 (13,5%); United States of America (USA), 3 871 (10,6%); France, 2 443 (6,7%); The Netherlands, 2 031 (5,6%); Switzerland, 1 299 (3,6%); Belgium, 1 261 (3,5%); India, 939 (2,6%); Canada, 794 (2,2%); and Russian Federation, 758 (2,1%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 73,9% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the ten leading countries between December 2019 and December 2020 shows that the number of tourists decreased for all ten leading countries. USA had the largest decrease of 88,2% (from 32 895 tourists in December 2019 to 3 871 tourists in December 2020).

Virtually, most tourists from Africa, 157 258 (97,5%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 1 949 (1,2%); East and Central Africa, 1 845 (1,1%); and North Africa 306 (0,2%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in December 2020 were: Zimbabwe, 59 951 (38,1%); Mozambique, 35 856 (22,8%); Lesotho, 18 592 (11,8%); Eswatini, 13 260 (8,4%); Namibia, 7 769 (4,9%); Botswana, 7 493 (4,8%); Zambia, 5 708 (3,6%); Malawi, 4 986 (3,2%); DRC, 1 449 (0,9%) and Tanzania, 1 147 (0,7%). (See Figure 2 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 12 to 13). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,3% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in December 2019 and December 2020 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists decreased for all ten leading countries. Botswana showed the largest decrease of 91,4% (from 87 374 tourists in December 2019 to 7 493 in December 2020).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in December 2020 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8 and Table 3 on pages 13 to 14, were: Nigeria, 1 025 (25,0%); Ghana, 622 (15,2%); Kenya, 609 (14,9%); Gabon, 316 (7,7%); Uganda, 286 (7,0%); Ethiopia, 241 (5,9%); Cameroon, 185 (4,5%); Egypt, 130 (3,2%); Congo, 80 (2,0%) and The Sudan, 63 (1,5%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 86,8% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in December 2019 and December 2020 shows that the number of tourists decreased for all ten leading countries. Egypt showed the largest decrease of 82,9% (from 762 tourists in December 2019 to 130 in December 2020).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed in Table 4 on pages 15 to 18, in December 2020, the majority of tourists, 182 578 (92,2%), were in South Africa for holiday¹ compared to 14 049 (7,1%); 1 157 (0,6%) and 275 (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, 26 326 who came for holiday, 401 who came for business and 126 who came for study and 27 who came for medical treatment.

Within the overseas regions, North America had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for holiday, 98,7% (4 606), followed by Australasia, 98,2% (590), Europe, 97,9% (26 326), Central and South America, 95,8% (566), the Middle East, 95,6% (715) and Asia, 93,7% (2 692).

Asia, 3,3% (94) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business, followed by Europe, 1,5% (401), Australasia, 1,2% (7), the Middle East, 1,1% (8), Central and South America, 0,8% (5) and North America, 0,7% (33).

Central and South America, 3,4% (20) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to study, followed by the Middle East, 3,3% (25), Asia, 2,8% (81), Europe, 0,5% (126), North America, 0,5% (21) and Australasia, 0,5% (3).

Asia had 0,2% (5) of their tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by Australasia, 0,2% (1), Europe, 0,1% (27) and North America 0,1% (5). Central and America and the Middle East had no tourists coming to South Africa for medical treatment.

The majority of African tourists, 146 746 (90,9%) 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 'other' African countries, 91,4% (3 748) were on holiday, compared to 90,9% (142 998) from SADC countries who came for the same purpose. Information on the regions of 'other' African countries shows that 93,8% (1 828) of tourists from West Africa were on holiday, followed by tourists from East and Central Africa, 90,5% (1 670) and North Africa 81,7% (250) respectively.
- Business persons constituted 8,5% (13 385) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 2,7% (109) from 'other' African countries. East and Central Africa, 2,8% (52) and West Africa, 2,6% (51) had the highest proportions of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes, followed by North Africa, 2,0% (6).
- Students constituted 5,0% (207) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,4% (674) from SADC countries. North Africa, 16,0% (49) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes, followed by East and Central Africa, 5,6% (103) and West Africa, 2,8% (55).
- Medical treatment tourists constituted 0,9% (36) of tourists from 'other' African countries, while those from SADC constituted 0,1% (201) of its tourists. East and Central Africa, 1,1% (20) and West Africa, 0,8% (15) had the highest proportions of its tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by North Africa, 0,3% (1).

¹ The holiday category includes tourists who came for vacation, visiting friends and relatives, shopping and other personal reasons. See section 4.5.2 on page 21 for a more detailed discussion.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 19 shows that in December 2020, there were 127 829 (64,5%) male and 70 230 (35,5%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 20 505 (56,4%) male tourists and 15 852 (43,6%) female tourists. There were 104 686 (66,6%) male and 52 572 (33,4%) female tourists from SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 2 422 (59,1%) male and 1 678 (40,9%) 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 [64 043 (32,3%)]. Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results show that the highest proportion of tourists from 'other' African countries [1 299 (31,7%)] and those from overseas countries [8 110 (22,3%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years, whereas those from SADC countries [55 596 (35,4%)] were aged 35 and 44 years. The second highest proportion of tourists from 'other' African countries [1 167 (28,5%)] and overseas countries [7 167 (19,7%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years, whereas those from SADC countries [40 343 (25,7%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years. The median ages of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African countries were 36, 38 and 34 years respectively. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was higher among tourists from overseas countries, 13,0% (4 724) and those from 'other' African countries, 8,1% (333) compared to those from SADC countries, 4,9% (7 781).

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 6,4% (1 308) of male and 6,7% (1 058) 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 1,6% (1 703) and 3,1% (1 610) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 1,7% (40) and 2,7% (45) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in December 2019 and December 2020

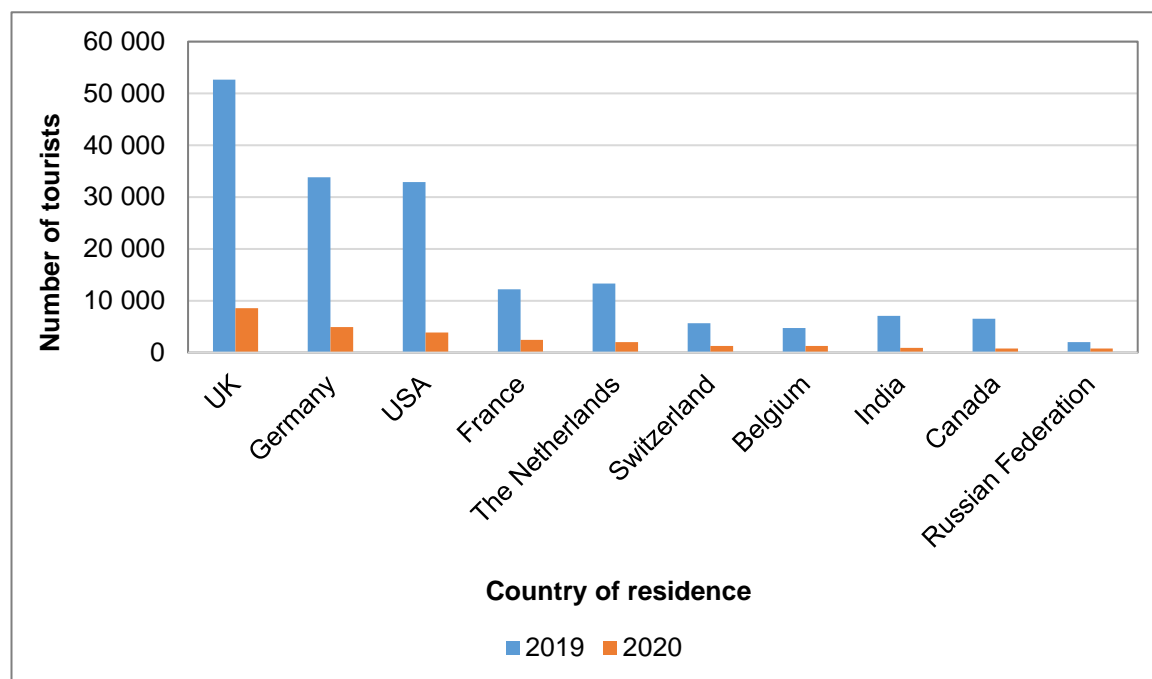


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in December 2019 and December 2020

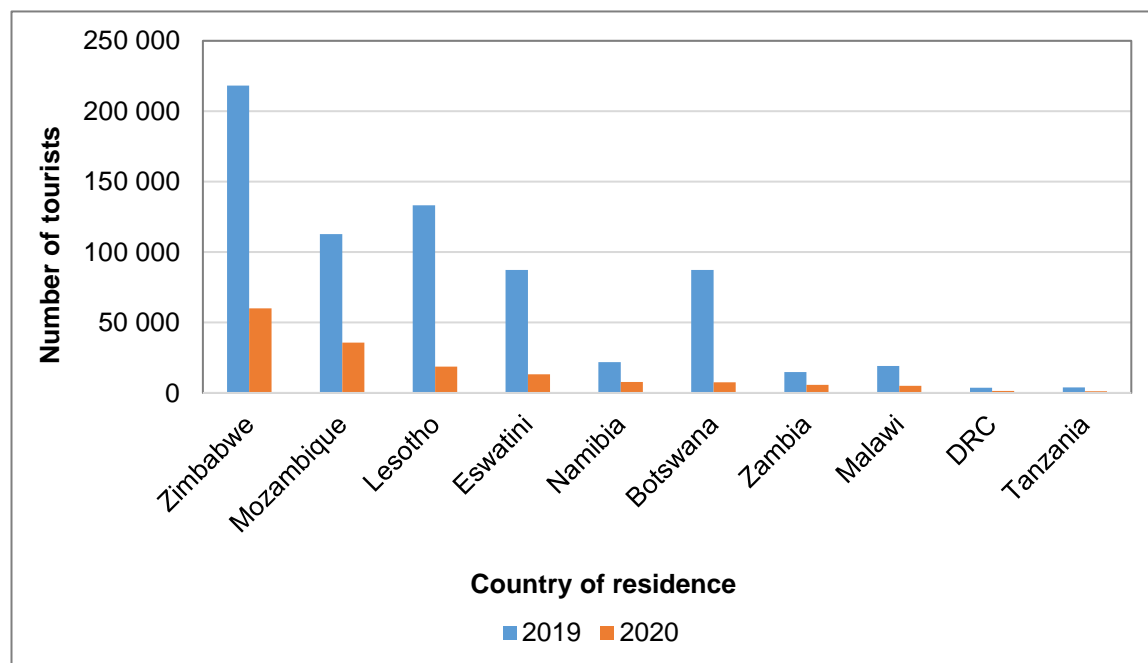
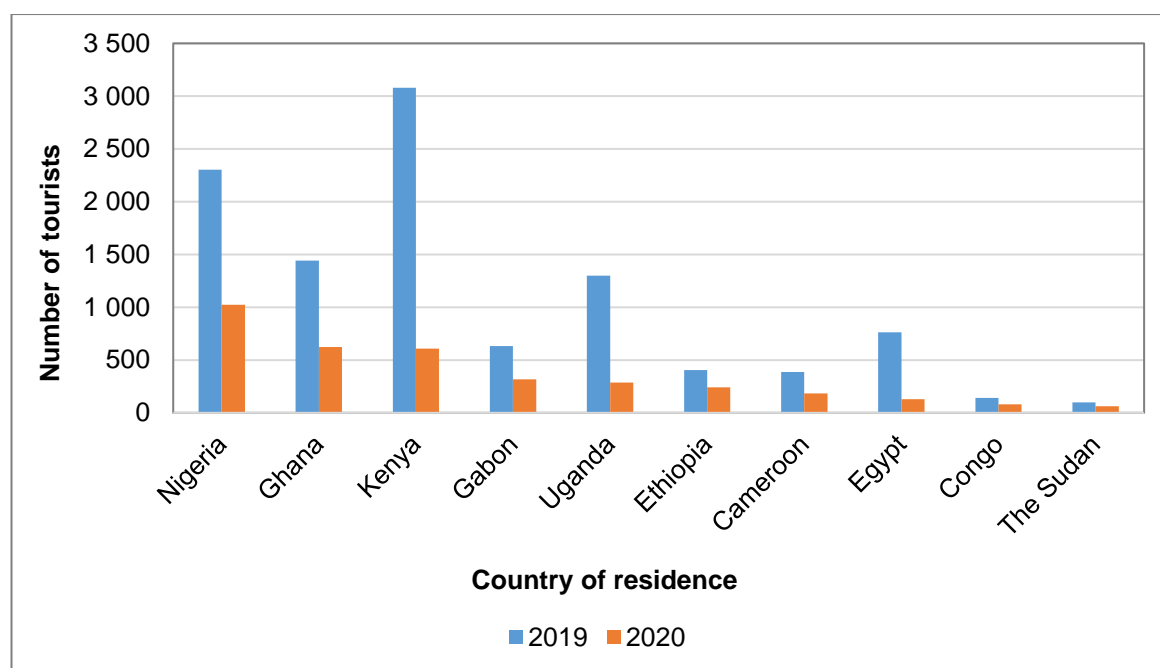


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in December 2019 and December 2020



3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	December 2019	November 2020	December 2020	% Change Nov 2020 – Dec 2020	% Change Dec 2019 – Dec 2020
Total	4 657 450	470 701	935 085	98,7%	-79,9%
South African residents	1 477 588	178 632	333 579	86,7%	-77,4%
Arrivals	638 708	91 418	151 362	65,6%	-76,3%
Departures	838 048	87 179	182 144	108,9%	-78,3%
Transits	832	35	73	108,6%	-91,2%
Foreign travellers	3 179 862	292 069	601 506	105,9%	-81,1%
Arrivals	1 559 368	152 694	279 539	83,1%	-82,1%
Departures	1 561 121	136 277	315 824	131,8%	-79,8%
Transits	59 373	3 098	6 143	98,3%	-89,7%
Foreign arrivals	1 559 368	152 694	279 539	83,1%	-82,1%
Non-visitors	78 185	33 833	39 102	15,6%	-50,0%
Visitors	1 481 183	118 861	240 437	102,3%	-83,8%
Visitors	1 481 183	118 861	240 437	102,3%	-83,8%
Arrivals only	370 011	41 871	86 968	107,7%	-76,5%
Single trips	548 924	29 775	73 761	147,7%	-86,6%
Multiple trips	562 248	47 215	79 708	68,8%	-85,8%
Visitors	1 481 183	118 861	240 437	102,3%	-83,8%
Same-day	500 145	17 765	42 378	138,5%	-91,5%
Overnight (Tourists)	981 038	101 096	198 059	95,9%	-79,8%

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		
Total	935 085	54 953	6 844	181 241	632	243 670	686 059	5 356
South African residents	333 579	23 510	4 675	86 015	531	114 731	218 370	478
Arrivals	151 362	13 915	2 146	45 283	235	61 579	89 591	192
Departures	182 144	9 594	2 529	40 660	296	53 079	128 779	286
Transit	73	1	-	72	-	73	-	-
Foreign travellers	601 506	31 443	2 169	95 226	101	128 939	467 689	4 878
Arrivals	279 539	19 145	976	43 929	54	64 104	213 128	2 307
Departures	315 824	12 273	1 193	45 179	47	58 692	254 561	2 571
Transit	6 143	25	-	6 118	-	6 143	-	-
Visitors	240 437	17 227	512	40 418	22	58 179	182 226	32
Same day	42 378	136	4	3 333	-	3 473	38 893	12
Tourist	198 059	17 091	508	37 085	22	54 706	143 333	20

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, December 2020

Country of residence	December		December 2020						
	2019	2020	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	981 038	198 059	17 091	508	37 085	22	54 706	143 333	20
Overseas	256 796	36 357	15 032	483	18 779	15	34 309	2 028	20
Europe	163 335	26 880	12 637	329	12 895	11	25 872	990	18
Austria	3 211	538	388	4	139	-	531	7	-
Belgium	4 732	1 261	584	12	622	-	1 218	42	1
France	12 218	2 443	861	9	1 488	-	2 358	82	3
Germany	33 795	4 909	3 155	28	1 552	9	4 744	163	2
Ireland	3 857	607	233	19	319	-	571	36	-
Italy	6 390	727	320	3	371	-	694	33	-
Poland	1 237	362	190	8	153	-	351	10	1
Portugal	2 732	443	77	3	209	-	289	153	1
Russian Federation	2 013	758	391	-	355	-	746	11	1
Spain	2 593	415	141	8	225	-	374	41	-
Sweden	7 251	608	345	16	228	-	589	19	-
Switzerland	5 686	1 299	755	10	515	1	1 281	18	-
The Netherlands	13 311	2 031	1 044	7	917	-	1 968	63	-
UK	52 631	8 567	3 373	144	4 812	-	8 329	230	8
Other	11 678	1 912	780	58	990	1	1 829	82	1
North America	39 434	4 665	1 563	79	2 760	3	4 405	260	-
Canada	6 539	794	269	8	471	-	748	46	-
USA	32 895	3 871	1 294	71	2 289	3	3 657	214	-
Central and South America	12 706	591	128	13	347	-	488	103	-
Argentina	841	60	11	5	41	-	57	3	-
Brazil	9 770	319	72	-	171	-	243	76	-
Mexico	413	35	6	2	26	-	34	1	-
Other	1 682	177	39	6	109	-	154	23	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, December 2020 (continued)

Country of residence	December		December 2020						
	2019	2020	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	14 242	601	192	9	367	-	568	33	-
Australia	11 551	486	154	7	297	-	458	28	-
New Zealand	2 637	114	38	2	69	-	109	5	-
Other	54	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Middle East	3 822	748	250	5	438	-	693	55	-
Israel	2 101	395	107	-	257	-	364	31	-
Lebanon	233	79	24	2	45	-	71	8	-
United Arab Emirates	185	102	65	1	35	-	101	1	-
Other	1 303	172	54	2	101	-	157	15	-
Asia	23 257	2 872	262	48	1 972	1	2 283	587	2
Bangladesh	466	151	8	7	102	-	117	34	-
China	5 965	475	13	-	337	-	350	123	2
India	7 058	939	65	8	646	-	719	220	-
Indonesia	384	56	12	1	42	-	55	1	-
Japan	2 318	114	12	5	94	-	111	3	-
Pakistan	1 065	352	44	12	201	-	257	95	-
Philippines	721	271	44	6	198	1	249	22	-
South Korea	1 599	118	11	-	88	-	99	19	-
Sri Lanka	288	67	2	-	42	-	44	23	-
Thailand	617	145	21	4	117	-	142	3	-
Other	2 776	184	30	5	105	-	140	44	-
Africa	722 945	161 358	2 031	25	18 114	7	20 177	141 181	-
SADC	710 783	157 258	1 460	11	14 944	7	16 422	140 836	-
Angola	5 213	911	190	-	611	2	803	108	-
Botswana	87 374	7 493	23	7	557	-	587	6 906	-
DRC	3 755	1 449	148	-	1 143	2	1 293	156	-
Eswatini	87 227	13 260	-	-	155	-	155	13 105	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, December 2020 (continued)

Country of residence	December		December 2020						
	2019	2020	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Lesotho	133 133	18 592	2	-	160	-	162	18 430	-
Madagascar	339	53	4	-	47	-	51	2	-
Malawi	19 229	4 986	15	-	1 244	-	1 259	3 727	-
Mauritius	2 051	65	5	-	43	-	48	17	-
Mozambique	112 846	35 856	4	1	723	1	729	35 127	-
Namibia	21 993	7 769	559	1	703	-	1 263	6 506	-
Seychelles	635	18	-	-	14	-	14	4	-
Tanzania	3 937	1 147	94	-	674	-	768	379	-
Zambia	14 815	5 708	18	-	1 275	-	1 293	4 415	-
Zimbabwe	218 236	59 951	398	2	7 595	2	7 997	51 954	-
'Other' African	12 162	4 100	571	14	3 170	-	3 755	345	-
East and Central Africa	6 293	1 845	278	8	1 425	-	1 711	134	-
Burundi	50	26	10	1	15	-	26	-	-
Cameroon	386	185	15	-	162	-	177	8	-
Central African Republic	9	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	-
Chad	23	15	1	-	14	-	15	-	-
Comoros	22	18	-	-	18	-	18	-	-
Congo	140	80	32	-	47	-	79	1	-
Djibouti	-	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	46	12	-	-	10	-	10	2	-
Eritrea	55	10	-	-	6	-	6	4	-
Ethiopia	406	241	11	5	190	-	206	35	-
Gabon	633	316	34	-	280	-	314	2	-
Kenya	3 081	609	129	1	436	-	566	43	-
Réunion	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rwanda	65	16	-	-	12	-	12	4	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Somalia	69	27	10	-	15	-	25	2	-
Uganda	1 301	286	36	1	216	-	253	33	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, December 2020 (concluded)

Country of residence	December		December 2020						
	2019	2020	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	4 516	1 949	211	1	1 560	-	1 772	177	-
Benin	143	57	7	-	47	-	54	3	-
Burkina Faso	30	10	1	-	9	-	10	-	-
Cape Verde Island	23	9	1	-	5	-	6	3	-
Côte d'Ivoire	147	53	7	-	43	-	50	3	-
Gambia	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ghana	1 441	622	58	-	547	-	605	17	-
Guinea	80	52	2	-	23	-	25	27	-
Guinea-Bissau	4	4	-	-	2	-	2	2	-
Liberia	41	16	-	-	16	-	16	-	-
Mali	71	38	2	-	12	-	14	24	-
Mauritania	7	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Niger	20	3	-	-	3	-	3	-	-
Nigeria	2 302	1 025	130	1	802	-	933	92	-
Saint Helena	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Senegal	92	42	2	-	39	-	41	1	-
Sierra Leone	48	12	-	-	7	-	7	5	-
Togo	33	5	1	-	4	-	5	-	-
North Africa	1 353	306	82	5	185	-	272	34	-
Algeria	66	12	-	-	11	-	11	1	-
Egypt	762	130	17	3	95	-	115	15	-
Libya	103	32	6	1	12	-	19	13	-
Morocco	106	25	6	-	18	-	24	1	-
South Sudan	133	21	7	-	14	-	21	-	-
The Sudan	100	63	32	1	28	-	61	2	-
Tunisia	83	23	14	-	7	-	21	2	-
Unspecified	1 297	344	28	-	192	-	220	124	-

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

Country of residence	December			Purpose of visit (December 2020)			
	2019	2020	% change 2019–2020	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Total	981 038	198 059	-79,8%	14 049	182 578	1 157	275
Overseas	256 796	36 357	-85,8%	548	35 495	276	38
Europe	163 335	26 880	-83,5%	401	26 326	126	27
Austria	3 211	538	-83,2%	6	531	1	-
Belgium	4 732	1 261	-73,4%	18	1 233	9	1
France	12 218	2 443	-80,0%	48	2 379	15	1
Germany	33 795	4 909	-85,5%	91	4 788	28	2
Ireland	3 857	607	-84,3%	4	602	1	-
Italy	6 390	727	-88,6%	20	704	3	-
Poland	1 237	362	-70,7%	3	358	-	1
Portugal	2 732	443	-83,8%	1	436	6	-
Russian Federation	2 013	758	-62,3%	3	752	3	-
Spain	2 593	415	-84,0%	15	397	3	-
Sweden	7 251	608	-91,6%	19	586	2	1
Switzerland	5 686	1 299	-77,2%	8	1 285	5	1
The Netherlands	13 311	2 031	-84,7%	36	1 982	13	-
UK	52 631	8 567	-83,7%	79	8 450	21	17
Other	11 678	1 912	-83,6%	50	1 843	16	3
North America	39 434	4 665	-88,2%	33	4 606	21	5
Canada	6 539	794	-87,9%	4	784	5	1
USA	32 895	3 871	-88,2%	29	3 822	16	4
Central and South America	12 706	591	-95,3%	5	566	20	-
Argentina	841	60	-92,9%	1	56	3	-
Brazil	9 770	319	-96,7%	2	306	11	-
Mexico	413	35	-91,5%	2	32	1	-
Other	1 682	177	-89,5%	-	172	5	-

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

Country of residence	December			Purpose of visit (December 2020)			
	2019	2020	% change 2019–2020	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Australasia	14 242	601	-95,8%	7	590	3	1
Australia	11 551	486	-95,8%	5	479	2	-
New Zealand	2 637	114	-95,7%	2	110	1	1
Other	54	1	-98,1%	-	1	-	-
Middle East	3 822	748	-80,4%	8	715	25	-
Israel	2 101	395	-81,2%	4	386	5	-
Lebanon	233	79	-66,1%	1	77	1	-
United Arab Emirates	185	102	-44,9%	-	101	1	-
Other	1 303	172	-86,8%	3	151	18	-
Asia	23 257	2 872	-87,7%	94	2 692	81	5
Bangladesh	466	151	-67,6%	3	147	1	-
China	5 965	475	-92,0%	41	431	3	-
India	7 058	939	-86,7%	27	870	40	2
Indonesia	384	56	-85,4%	-	56	-	-
Japan	2 318	114	-95,1%	4	107	3	-
Pakistan	1 065	352	-66,9%	8	335	8	1
Philippines	721	271	-62,4%	2	262	5	2
South Korea	1 599	118	-92,6%	2	109	7	-
Sri Lanka	288	67	-76,7%	1	66	-	-
Thailand	617	145	-76,5%	-	142	3	-
Other	2 776	184	-93,4%	6	167	11	-
Africa	722 945	161 358	-77,7%	13 494	146 746	881	237
SADC	710 783	157 258	-77,9%	13 385	142 998	674	201
Angola	5 213	911	-82,5%	11	861	30	9
Botswana	87 374	7 493	-91,4%	736	6 686	47	24
DRC	3 755	1 449	-61,4%	40	1 331	63	15
Eswatini	87 227	13 260	-84,8%	801	12 394	50	15

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

Country of residence	December			Purpose of visit (December 2020)			
	2019	2020	% change 2019–2020	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Lesotho	133 133	18 592	-86,0%	1 429	16 940	149	74
Madagascar	339	53	-84,4%	-	52	1	-
Malawi	19 229	4 986	-74,1%	260	4 690	29	7
Mauritius	2 051	65	-96,8%	-	57	8	-
Mozambique	112 846	35 856	-68,2%	2 613	33 212	23	8
Namibia	21 993	7 769	-64,7%	3 040	4 666	52	11
Seychelles	635	18	-97,2%	-	18	-	-
Tanzania	3 937	1 147	-70,9%	32	1 101	9	5
Zambia	14 815	5 708	-61,5%	1 633	4 047	23	5
Zimbabwe	218 236	59 951	-72,5%	2 790	56 943	190	28
'Other' African	12 162	4 100	-66,3%	109	3 748	207	36
East and Central Africa	6 293	1 845	-70,7%	52	1 670	103	20
Burundi	50	26	-48,0%	1	25	-	-
Cameroon	386	185	-52,1%	2	160	15	8
Central African Republic	9	2	-77,8%	-	2	-	-
Chad	23	15	-34,8%	1	13	-	1
Comoros	22	18	-18,2%	-	18	-	-
Congo	140	80	-42,9%	-	62	13	5
Djibouti	-	2	-	-	2	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	46	12	-73,9%	1	11	-	-
Eritrea	55	10	-81,8%	-	7	3	-
Ethiopia	406	241	-40,6%	8	228	4	1
Gabon	633	316	-50,1%	1	286	29	-
Kenya	3 081	609	-80,2%	31	554	23	1
Réunion	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rwanda	65	16	-75,4%	-	15	1	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Somalia	69	27	-60,9%	-	27	-	-
Uganda	1 301	286	-78,0%	7	260	15	4

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

Country of residence	December			Purpose of visit (December 2020)			
	2019	2020	% change 2019–2020	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
West Africa	4 516	1 949	-56,8%	51	1 828	55	15
Benin	143	57	-60,1%	1	55	1	-
Burkina Faso	30	10	-66,7%	-	9	-	1
Cape Verde Island	23	9	-60,9%	-	9	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	147	53	-63,9%	5	44	3	1
Gambia	26	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ghana	1 441	622	-56,8%	11	600	9	2
Guinea	80	52	-35,0%	3	46	3	-
Guinea-Bissau	4	4	0,0%	-	4	-	-
Liberia	41	16	-61,0%	1	14	-	1
Mali	71	38	-46,5%	-	38	-	-
Mauritania	7	1	-85,7%	-	1	-	-
Niger	20	3	-85,0%	1	2	-	-
Nigeria	2 302	1 025	-55,5%	27	949	39	10
Saint Helena	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Senegal	92	42	-54,3%	2	40	-	-
Sierra Leone	48	12	-75,0%	-	12	-	-
Togo	33	5	-84,8%	-	5	-	-
North Africa	1 353	306	-77,4%	6	250	49	1
Algeria	66	12	-81,8%	-	9	2	1
Egypt	762	130	-82,9%	3	107	20	-
Libya	103	32	-68,9%	1	24	7	-
Morocco	106	25	-76,4%	-	22	3	-
South Sudan	133	21	-84,2%	2	18	1	-
The Sudan	100	63	-37,0%	-	48	15	-
Tunisia	83	23	-72,3%	-	22	1	-
Unspecified	1 297	344	-73,5%	7	337	-	-

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

Sex	Age group	December		Region (December 2020)			
		2019	2020	Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	981 038	198 059	36 357	157 258	4 100	344
	0-14	92 008	12 841	4 724	7 781	333	3
	15-24	113 372	16 055	3 819	11 757	471	8
	25-34	255 150	49 812	8 110	40 343	1 299	60
	35-44	251 262	64 043	7 167	55 596	1 167	113
	45-54	145 024	35 156	6 049	28 489	509	109
	55-64	80 590	14 388	4 122	9 979	236	51
	65+	43 632	5 764	2 366	3 313	85	-
Male	Total	521 704	127 829	20 505	104 686	2 422	216
	0-14	45 652	6 371	2 443	3 774	154	-
	15-24	56 093	8 184	1 922	5 981	275	6
	25-34	134 650	30 416	4 261	25 405	708	42
	35-44	144 208	45 651	4 270	40 539	775	67
	45-54	79 144	24 798	3 716	20 669	342	71
	55-64	40 924	9 358	2 585	6 615	128	30
	65+	21 033	3 051	1 308	1 703	40	-
Female	Total	459 334	70 230	15 852	52 572	1 678	128
	0-14	46 356	6 470	2 281	4 007	179	3
	15-24	57 279	7 871	1 897	5 776	196	2
	25-34	120 500	19 396	3 849	14 938	591	18
	35-44	107 054	18 392	2 897	15 057	392	46
	45-54	65 880	10 358	2 333	7 820	167	38
	55-64	39 666	5 030	1 537	3 364	108	21
	65+	22 599	2 713	1 058	1 610	45	-

4. Explanatory notes

NOTE TO USERS

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. 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.

4.1 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.

4.2 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.

4.3 Scope and coverage

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

4.4 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 December 2020, the DHA data was 4,6% higher than that of ACSA.

4.5 Limitations

4.5.1 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.

4.5.2 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.

4.6 Definition of terms

4.6.1 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.

4.6.2 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.

4.7 Symbols used

- = nil

< = less than

4.8 Rounding off

Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

5. 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.

Stats SA has copyright on this publication. Users may apply the information as they wish, provided that they acknowledge Stats SA as the source of the basic data wherever they process, apply, utilise, publish or distribute the data; and also that they specify that the relevant application and analysis (where applicable) result from their own processing of the data.

Advance release calendar

An advance release calendar is disseminated at www.statssa.gov.za

Stats SA products

A complete set of Stats SA publications is available at the Stats SA Library and the following libraries:

National Library of South Africa, Pretoria Division
National Library of South Africa, Cape Town Division
Natal Society Library, Pietermaritzburg
Library of Parliament, Cape Town
Bloemfontein Public Library
Johannesburg Public Library
Eastern Cape Library Services, King William's Town
Central Regional Library, Polokwane
Central Reference Library, Mbombela
Central Reference Collection, Kimberley
Central Reference Library, Mahikeng

Stats SA also provides a subscription service.

Electronic services

A large range of data are available via online services, CD and computer printouts. For more details about our electronic data, contact user information services.

You can visit us on the Internet at www.statssa.gov.za

Enquiries

Telephone: (012) 310 8600 (user information services)
(012) 316 9301 (technical enquiries)
(012) 310 8251 (orders)
(012) 310 4883/4885/8018 (library)

Fax: (012) 310 8500/ 8495 (user information services)
(012) 310 6937 (technical enquiries)

Email: DuduzileGu@statssa.gov.za (technical enquiries)
info@statssa.gov.za (user information services)

Postal address: Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001

Produced by Stats SA