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STATISTICAL RELEASE

P0351

Tourism and migration

February 2020

Embargoed until:
21 April 2020
09:00

ENQUIRIES:

User Information Services
Tel: (012) 310 8600

FORTHCOMING ISSUE:

March 2020

EXPECTED RELEASE DATE

26 May 2020



Dipalopalo tsa Aforikaborwa • Dipalopalo tsa Afrika Borwa • Ezezibalo zaseNingizimu Afrika • Tshitatistika Afrika Tshipembe • Tinhlayohlayo Afrika-Dzonga
Statistieke Suid-Afrika • Dipalopalo tša Afrika Borwa • Telubalo taseNingizimu Afrika • EzeeNkcukacha maNani zoMzantsi Afrika • Iimbalo zeSewula Afrika

The South Africa I know, the home I understand



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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 February 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 3 091 233 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry/exit in February 2020. As presented in Table 1 on page 10, these travellers were made up of 752 507 South African residents and 2 338 726 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 370 823 arrivals, 381 100 departures and 584 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 1 218 468, 1 074 252 and 46 006, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in February 2019 and February 2020 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. Travellers in transit decreased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 3,0% (from 360 186 in February 2019 to 370 823 in February 2020). Departures increased by 2,9% (from 370 186 in February 2019 to 381 100 in February 2020), and transits decreased by 16,8% (from 702 in February 2019 to 584 in February 2020). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 1,0% (from 1 205 901 in February 2019 to 1 218 468 in February 2020), departures increased by 1,8% (from 1 055 331 in February 2019 to 1 074 252 in February 2020), and transits decreased by 3,0% (from 47 438 in February 2019 to 46 006 in February 2020).

A comparison between the movements in January 2020 and February 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 43,5% (from 656 050 in January 2020 to 370 823 in February 2020), departures decreased by 11,5% (from 430 762 in January 2020 to 381 100 in February 2020), and transits decreased by 23,1% (from 759 in January 2020 to 584 in February 2020). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 23,6% (from 1 595 388 in January 2020 to 1 218 468 in February 2020), departures decreased by 10,0% (from 1 193 534 in January 2020 to 1 074 252 in February 2020), and transits decreased by 14,7% (from 53 947 in January 2020 to 46 006 in February 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 10, in February 2020, 75 171 (6,2%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 143 297 (93,8%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in February 2020 but did not depart in February 2020 [327 957 (28,7%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in February 2020 and left in February 2020 [426 238 (37,3%)];
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in February 2020 [389 102 (34,0%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In February 2020, there were 342 482 (30,0%) same-day visitors and 800 815 (70,0%) tourists. Between February 2019 and February 2020, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 2,1% (from 335 382 in February 2019 to 342 482 in February 2020) and that of tourists increased by 0,5% (from 797 181 in February 2019 to 800 815 in February 2020). Between January 2020 and February 2020, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 14,1% (from 398 500 in January 2020 to 342 482 in February 2020), and tourists decreased by 26,8% (from 1 093 268 in January 2020 to 800 815 in February 2020).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Information presented in Table 2 on page 11, shows that in February 2020, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 102 562 (68,0%) of the 3 091 233 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 929 444 (28,5%). Compared to the use of air and land transport, a smaller number of travellers, 59 227 (1,9%) used sea transport. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 132 674 (35,8%) came by air, 219 903 (59,3%) came by road and 18 246 (4,9%) arrived by sea transport. For departures, 133 301 (35,0%) used air, 228 400 (59,9%) used road and 19 399 (5,1%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 584 (100,0%) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 309 317 (25,4%) arrived by air, 899 847 (73,9%) came by road and 9 304 (0,8%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 307 562 (28,6%) foreign travellers left by air, 754 412 (70,2%) left by road and 12 278 (1,1%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 46 006 (100,0%) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that of the 342 482 same-day visitors, an overwhelming majority, 326 314 (95,3%) arrived in the country by road, 15 926 (4,7%) flew into the country; and 242 (0,1%) arrived by sea transport. Information on tourists shows that 517 981 (64,7%) used road transport, 278 928 (34,8%) came by air transport and 3 906 (0,5%) 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 12 to 15. In February 2020, 228 446 (92,1%) of the 248 037 overseas tourists arrived in the country by air transport, whilst 15 915 (6,4%) came in by road transport and 3 676 (1,5%) arrived by sea transport. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 500 730 (93,0%), followed by air travel, 37 393 (6,9%) and sea transport, 226 (less than 0,1%). The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 12 053 (92,5%), with 970 (7,4%) using road transport and 4 (less than 0,1%) using sea transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In February 2020, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 173 962 (70,1%); North America, 32 806 (13,2%); Asia, 17 281 (7,0%); Central and South America, 11 120 (4,5%); Australasia, 8 607 (3,5%); and the Middle East, 4 261 (1,7%).

Figure 1 on page 8 and Table 3 on pages 12 to 15, indicate that the ten leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in February 2020 were United Kingdom (UK), 50 644 (20,4%), Germany, 42 302 (17,1%); United States of America (USA), 26 318 (10,6%); France, 16 485 (6,6%); The Netherlands, 13 543 (5,5%); Australia, 7 239 (2,9%); India, 6 985 (2,8%); Brazil, 6 922 (2,8%); Canada, 6 488 (2,6%); and Switzerland, 6 029 (2,4%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 73,8% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the ten leading countries between February 2019 and February 2020 shows that the number of tourists increased for eight of the ten leading countries (Brazil, Germany, USA, Australia, India, Canada, The Netherlands and UK), and decreased for two of the ten leading countries (France and Switzerland). Brazil had the largest increase of 43,1% (from 4 838 tourists in February 2019 to 6 922 tourists in February 2020). France, on the other hand, had the largest decrease of 4,4% (from 17 246 tourists in February 2019 to 16 485 tourists in February 2020).

Virtually, most tourists from Africa, 538 349 (97,6%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 6 076 (1,1%); East and Central Africa, 5 558 (1,0%); and North Africa 1 393 (0,3%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in February 2020 were: Zimbabwe, 160 038 (29,7%); Lesotho, 113 820 (21,1%); Mozambique, 104 587 (19,4%); Eswatini, 63 357 (11,8%); Botswana, 46 469 (8,6%); Malawi, 13 444 (2,5%); Namibia, 12 543 (2,3%); Zambia, 11 081 (2,1%); Angola, 5 026 (0,9%) and Tanzania, 2 984 (0,6%). (See Figure 2 on page 8 and Table 3 on pages 13 to 14). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,1% of all tourists from the SADC countries.

A comparison between movements in February 2019 and February 2020 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists increased for four of the ten leading countries (Botswana, Lesotho, Eswatini and Tanzania), and decreased for six of the ten leading countries (Angola, Malawi, Zambia, Namibia, Mozambique and Zimbabwe). Botswana showed the largest increase of 14,9% (from 40 437 tourists in February 2019 to 46 469 in February 2020), while Angola showed the largest decrease of 15,3% (from 5 936 tourists in February 2019 to 5 026 in February 2020).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in February 2020 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 9 and Table 3 on pages 14 to 15, were: Nigeria, 3 253 (25,0%); Kenya, 2 358 (18,1%); Ghana, 1 671 (12,8%); Uganda, 1 270 (9,7%); Egypt, 693 (5,3%); Ethiopia, 538 (4,1%); Gabon, 514 (3,9%); Cameroon, 411 (3,2%); Côte d'Ivoire, 221 (1,7%) and Morocco, 203 (1,6%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 85,5% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in February 2019 and February 2020 shows that the number of tourists increased for three of the ten leading countries (Morocco, Cameroon and Gabon) and decreased for the other seven of the ten leading countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana and Uganda). Morocco showed the largest increase of 11,5% (from 182 tourists in February 2019 to 203 in February 2020), while Côte d'Ivoire showed the largest decrease of 33,0% (from 330 tourists in February 2019 to 221 in February 2020).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed in Table 4 on pages 16 to 19, in February 2020, the majority of tourists, 778 066 (97,2%), were in South Africa for holiday¹ compared to 16 773 (2,1%); 5 426 (0,7%) and 550 (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, 169 597 (70,4%) who came for holiday, 3 893 (61,3%) who came for business, 416 (52,0%) who came for study and 56 (68,3%) who came for medical treatment.

Within the overseas regions, Central and South America had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for holiday, 98,7% (10 976), followed by Europe, 97,5% (169 597), North America, 97,2% (31 893), Australasia, 97,1% (8 355), the Middle East, 94,8% (4 040) and Asia, 92,2% (15 940).

Asia, 6,5% (1 122) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business, followed by the Middle East, 4,0% (170), Australasia, 2,8% (243), North America, 2,5% (814), Europe, 2,2% (3 893) and Central and South America, 1,0% (112).

Asia, 1,2% (215) and the Middle East, 1,2% (51) had the highest proportions of its tourists who came to study, followed by Central and South America, 0,3% (29), North America, 0,2% (81), Europe, 0,2% (416) and Australasia, 0,1% (8).

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

The majority of African tourists, 535 945 (97,2%) came to South Africa for holiday. However, the following differences in terms of reasons for travel were observed between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- A higher proportion of tourists from SADC countries, 97,5% (524 947) were on holiday, compared to 84,4% (10 998) from 'other' African countries who came for the same purpose. Information on the regions of 'other' African countries shows that 86,9% (5 279) of tourists from West Africa were on holiday, followed by tourists from North Africa, 83,3% (1 161) and East and Central Africa 82,0% (4 558) respectively.

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 26 for a more detailed discussion.

- Business persons constituted 8,1% (1 061) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared to 1,7% (9 281) from SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 10,7% (149) of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes, followed by East and Central Africa, 9,5% (530) and West Africa, 6,3% (382).
- Students constituted 6,9% (901) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,7% (3 724) from SADC countries. East and Central Africa, 7,7% (430) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes, followed by West Africa, 6,5% (392) and North Africa, 5,7% (79).
- Medical treatment tourists constituted 0,5% (67) of tourists from 'other' African countries, while those from SADC constituted 0,1% (397) of its tourists. East and Central Africa, 0,7% (40) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by West Africa, 0,4% (23) and followed by North Africa, 0,3% (4).

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 20 shows that in February 2020, there were 450 209 (56,2%) male and 350 606 (43,8%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 132 474 (53,4%) male tourists and 115 563 (46,6%) female tourists. There were 308 445 (57,3%) male and 229 904 (42,7%) female tourists from SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 8 430 (64,7%) male and 4 597 (35,3%) 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 [219 862 (27,5%)], followed closely by the age group 25 to 34 years [205 675 (25,7%)]. Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results show that the highest proportion of tourists from SADC countries [175 332 (32,6%)] and those from 'other' African countries [4 437 (34,1%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years, whereas those from overseas countries [47 602 (19,2%)] were aged 55 and 64 years. The second highest proportion of tourists from SADC countries [159 450 (29,6%)] and 'other' African countries [3 519 (27,0%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years, whereas those from overseas countries [43 577 (17,6%)] were aged 65 years and above. The median ages of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African countries were 47, 37 and 38 years respectively. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was higher among tourists from overseas countries, 5,9% (14 733) compared to those from SADC countries, 3,1% (16 657) and those from 'other' African countries, 3,0% (394).

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 17,4% (23 018) of male and 17,8% (20 559) of female tourists from overseas. This is in contrast to the pattern observed among tourists from the other two regions where tourists aged 65 years and older comprised less than 4,0% of both male and female tourists. From SADC countries, elderly tourists made up 2,3% (7 040) and 3,6% (8 328) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 1,7% (220) and 1,0% (130) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

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

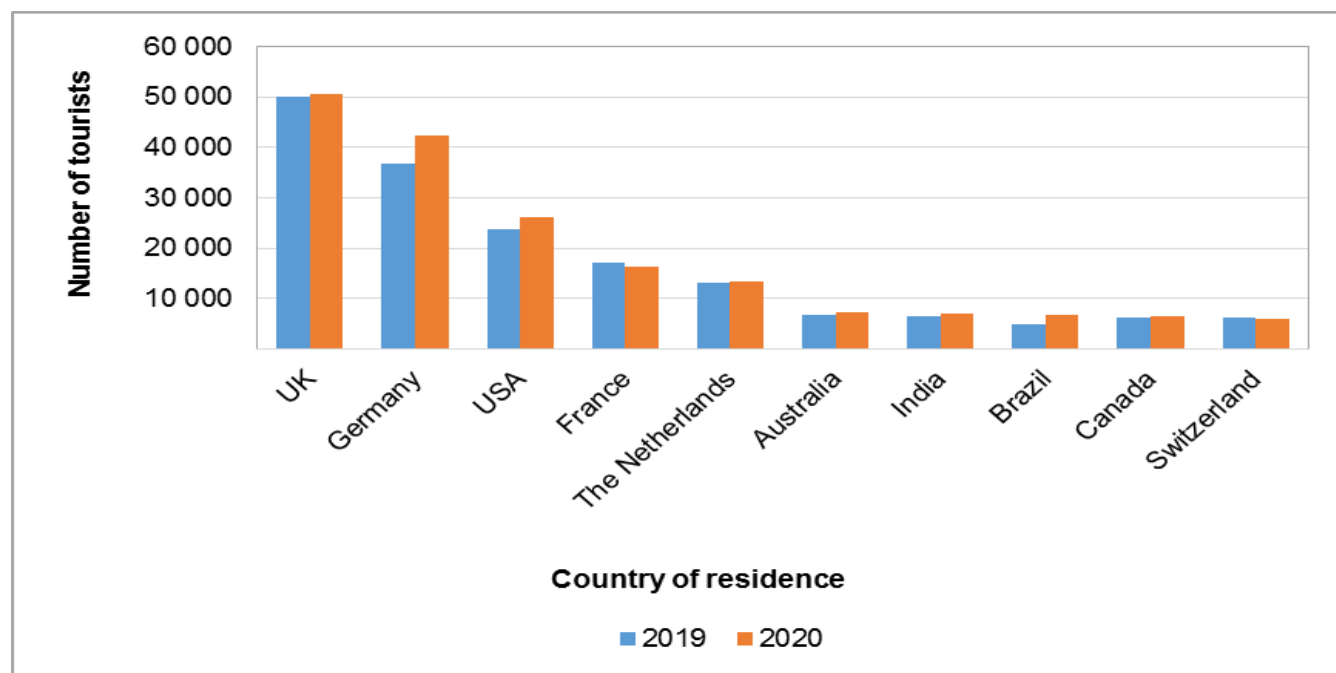


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in February 2019 and February 2020

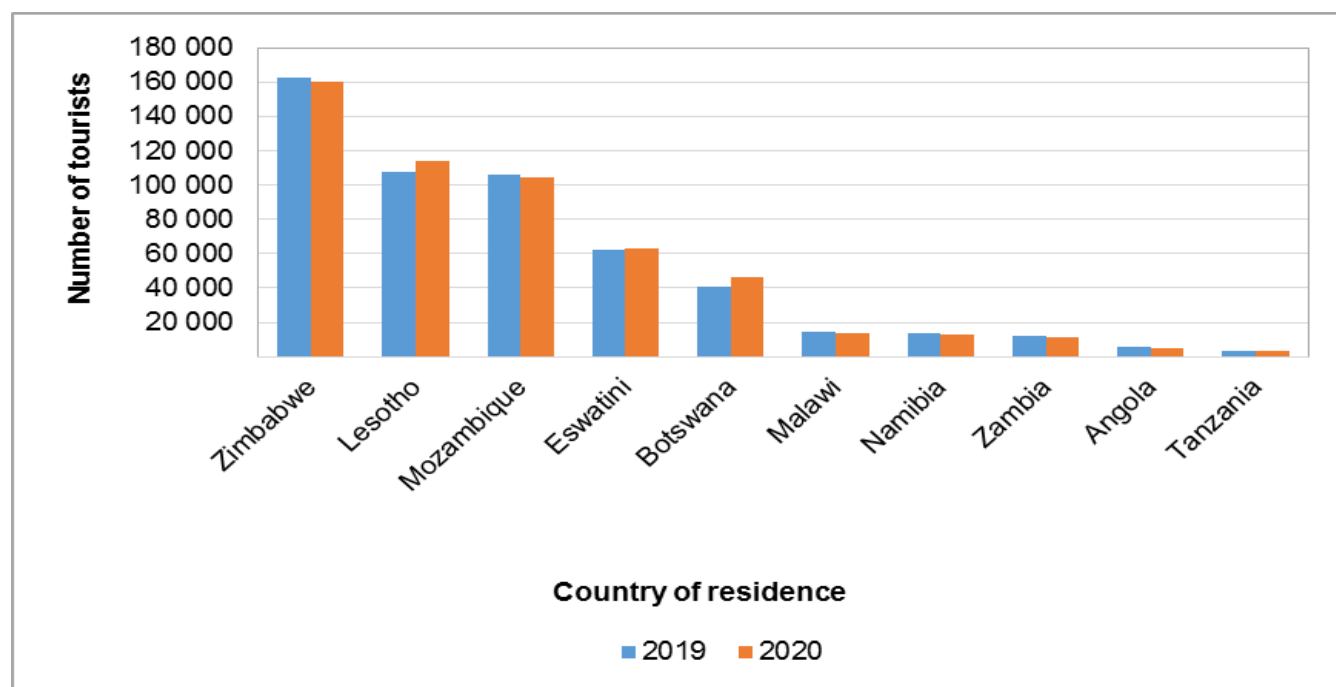
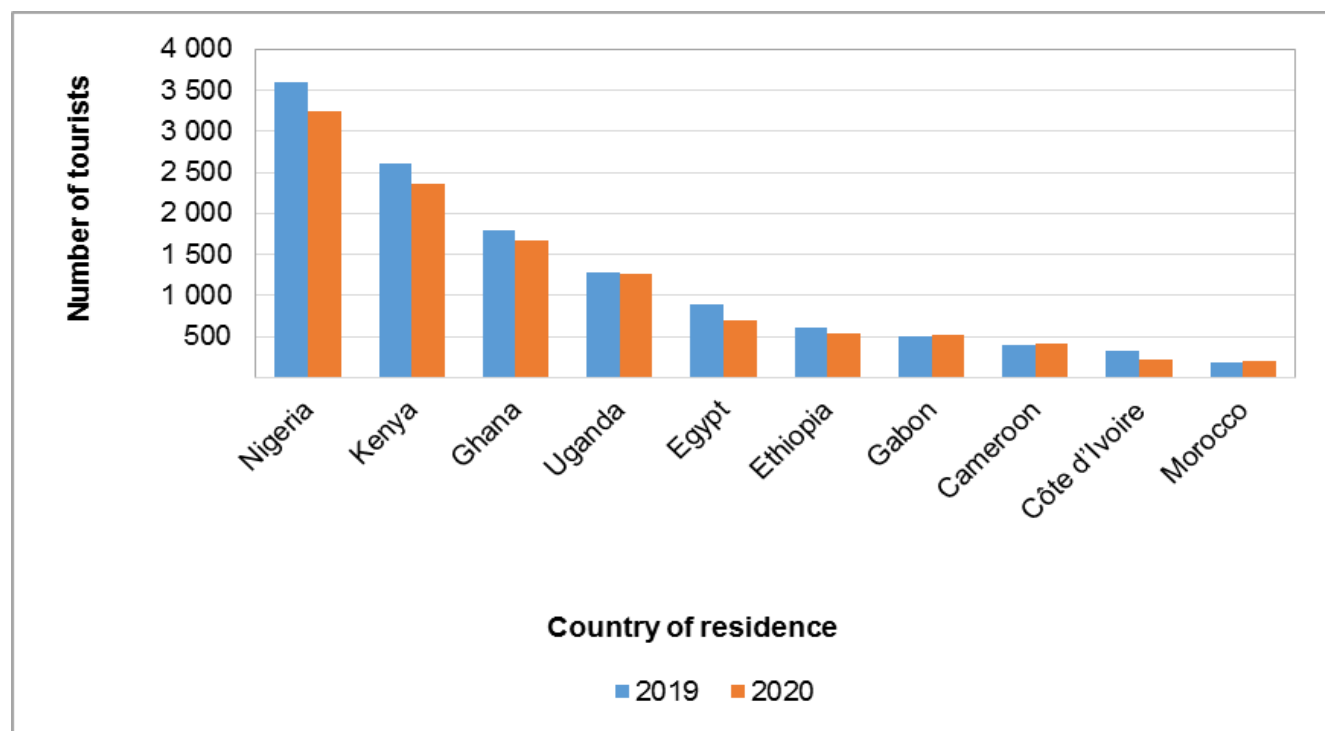


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in February 2019 and February 2020



3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	February 2019	January 2020	February 2020	% Change Jan 2020 – Feb 2020	% Change Feb 2019 – Feb 2020
Total	3 039 744	3 930 440	3 091 233	-21,4%	1,7%
South African residents	731 074	1 087 571	752 507	-30,8%	2,9%
Arrivals	360 186	656 050	370 823	-43,5%	3,0%
Departures	370 186	430 762	381 100	-11,5%	2,9%
Transits	702	759	584	-23,1%	-16,8%
Foreign travellers	2 308 670	2 842 869	2 338 726	-17,7%	1,3%
Arrivals	1 205 901	1 595 388	1 218 468	-23,6%	1,0%
Departures	1 055 331	1 193 534	1 074 252	-10,0%	1,8%
Transits	47 438	53 947	46 006	-14,7%	-3,0%
Foreign arrivals	1 205 901	1 595 388	1 218 468	-23,6%	1,0%
Non-visitors	73 338	103 620	75 171	-27,5%	2,5%
Visitors	1 132 563	1 491 768	1 143 297	-23,4%	0,9%
Visitors	1 132 563	1 491 768	1 143 297	-23,4%	0,9%
Arrivals only	327 483	585 538	327 957	-44,0%	0,1%
Single trips	418 632	431 900	426 238	-1,3%	1,8%
Multiple trips	386 448	474 330	389 102	-18,0%	0,7%
Visitors	1 132 563	1 491 768	1 143 297	-23,4%	0,9%
Same-day	335 382	398 500	342 482	-14,1%	2,1%
Overnight (Tourists)	797 181	1 093 268	800 815	-26,8%	0,5%

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

Travel direction	Total	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O. R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	3 091 233	264 101	27 955	632 944	4 444	929 444	2 102 562	59 227
South African residents	752 507	46 044	15 826	202 478	2 211	266 559	448 303	37 645
Arrivals	370 823	23 023	7 616	101 008	1 027	132 674	219 903	18 246
Departures	381 100	23 021	8 210	100 886	1 184	133 301	228 400	19 399
Transit	584	-	-	584	-	584	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 338 726	218 057	12 129	430 466	2 233	662 885	1 654 259	21 582
Arrivals	1 218 468	108 551	5 825	194 025	916	309 317	899 847	9 304
Departures	1 074 252	109 389	6 304	190 552	1 317	307 562	754 412	12 278
Transit	46 006	117	-	45 889	-	46 006	-	-
Visitors	1 143 297	104 256	5 015	184 848	735	294 854	844 295	4 148
Same-day	342 482	1 302	27	14 533	64	15 926	326 314	242
Tourist	800 815	102 954	4 988	170 315	671	278 928	517 981	3 906

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

Country of residence	February		February 2020						
	2019	2020	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	797 181	800 815	102 954	4 988	170 315	671	278 928	517 981	3 906
Overseas	246 394	248 037	95 412	4 410	128 102	522	228 446	15 915	3 676
Europe	169 025	173 962	77 423	3 557	79 323	300	160 603	10 456	2 903
Austria	4 493	4 109	2 558	52	1 296	9	3 915	172	22
Belgium	4 703	5 045	2 151	60	2 425	6	4 642	388	15
Denmark	3 813	3 874	1 176	95	2 338	4	3 613	257	4
France	17 246	16 485	4 991	109	9 692	11	14 803	1 623	59
Germany	36 692	42 302	21 019	362	16 362	110	37 853	2 075	2 374
Ireland	2 901	3 180	1 514	107	1 359	3	2 983	188	9
Italy	4 603	4 429	1 703	54	2 359	8	4 124	285	20
Norway	2 835	2 541	1 055	125	1 170	1	2 351	182	8
Portugal	2 773	2 744	467	23	1 162	9	1 661	1 081	2
Spain	2 243	2 239	670	53	1 274	4	2 001	228	10
Sweden	6 688	5 797	2 841	156	2 502	10	5 509	281	7
Switzerland	6 207	6 029	3 326	57	2 240	12	5 635	366	28
The Netherlands	13 297	13 543	6 546	96	5 841	16	12 499	1 010	34
UK	50 125	50 644	22 694	2 051	24 050	62	48 857	1 626	161
Other	10 406	11 001	4 712	157	5 253	35	10 157	694	150
North America	30 016	32 806	10 753	245	18 986	127	30 111	2 029	666
Canada	6 149	6 488	2 461	62	3 375	13	5 911	474	103
USA	23 867	26 318	8 292	183	15 611	114	24 200	1 555	563
Central and South America	9 950	11 120	782	12	9 718	49	10 561	521	38
Argentina	2 523	1 927	56	-	1 787	7	1 850	72	5
Brazil	4 838	6 922	452	4	6 105	19	6 580	328	14
Chile	1 223	778	44	1	690	20	755	23	-
Other	1 366	1 493	230	7	1 136	3	1 376	98	19

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

Country of residence	February		February 2020						
	2019	2020	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	7 447	8 607	1 390	102	6 659	28	8 179	399	29
Australia	6 696	7 239	1 097	88	5 687	26	6 898	315	26
New Zealand	730	1 348	289	14	957	2	1 262	83	3
Other	21	20	4	-	15	-	19	1	-
Middle East	4 066	4 261	1 181	20	2 914	1	4 116	139	6
Israel	2 567	2 325	555	4	1 671	-	2 230	90	5
Lebanon	240	294	68	4	203	-	275	19	-
Saudi Arabia	502	894	348	-	541	-	889	5	-
Other	757	748	210	12	499	1	722	25	1
Asia	25 890	17 281	3 883	474	10 502	17	14 876	2 371	34
Bangladesh	585	408	45	8	183	-	236	171	1
China	9 948	1 992	294	15	1 401	3	1 713	270	9
India	6 619	6 985	1 249	296	4 592	2	6 139	829	17
Japan	1 908	2 154	621	14	1 414	7	2 056	96	2
Malaysia	509	492	161	20	288	-	469	23	-
Pakistan	1 217	1 201	182	61	526	3	772	429	-
Philippines	480	442	104	17	260	-	381	59	2
Singapore	462	563	278	2	278	-	558	5	-
South Korea	2 148	1 593	596	16	790	2	1 404	188	1
Thailand	497	436	123	6	294	-	423	13	-
Other	1 517	1 015	230	19	476	-	725	288	2
Africa	549 445	551 376	7 467	573	41 258	148	49 446	501 700	230
SADC	534 866	538 349	5 491	512	31 273	117	37 393	500 730	226
Angola	5 936	5 026	1 773	-	2 714	8	4 495	530	1
Botswana	40 437	46 469	308	142	2 250	18	2 718	43 711	40
DRC	2 753	2 441	173	1	1 847	-	2 021	419	1
Eswatini	62 622	63 357	3	-	494	2	499	62 857	1

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

Country of residence	February		February 2020						
	2019	2020	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Lesotho	108 081	113 820	4	2	455	-	461	113 311	48
Madagascar	189	211	11	-	181	2	194	17	-
Malawi	14 723	13 444	26	3	1 986	2	2 017	11 427	-
Mauritius	1 838	1 766	552	130	986	2	1 670	96	-
Mozambique	106 481	104 587	14	13	2 872	13	2 912	101 626	49
Namibia	13 381	12 543	1 746	124	2 212	9	4 091	8 416	36
Seychelles	734	582	3	-	561	-	564	18	-
Tanzania	2 958	2 984	167	2	1 469	2	1 640	1 341	3
Zambia	12 129	11 081	31	66	2 789	31	2 917	8 162	2
Zimbabwe	162 604	160 038	680	29	10 457	28	11 194	148 799	45
'Other' African	14 579	13 027	1 976	61	9 985	31	12 053	970	4
East and Central Africa	6 134	5 558	1 066	7	4 006	16	5 095	463	-
Burundi	89	78	14	-	61	-	75	3	-
Cameroon	392	411	62	-	323	1	386	25	-
Central African Republic	13	12	7	-	5	-	12	-	-
Chad	36	31	9	1	19	2	31	-	-
Comoros	16	36	4	-	31	-	35	1	-
Congo	244	129	42	-	73	10	125	4	-
Djibouti	11	5	2	-	3	-	5	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	48	21	3	-	17	-	20	1	-
Eritrea	54	43	5	-	33	-	38	5	-
Ethiopia	614	538	70	-	393	1	464	74	-
Gabon	505	514	73	-	438	-	511	3	-
Kenya	2 613	2 358	531	4	1 617	2	2 154	204	-
Réunion	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rwanda	72	72	13	-	46	-	59	13	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	3	6	1	-	5	-	6	-	-
Somalia	135	34	9	-	17	-	26	8	-
Uganda	1 288	1 270	221	2	925	-	1 148	122	-

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

Country of residence	February		February 2020						
	2019	2020	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	6 830	6 076	655	30	4 939	9	5 633	439	4
Benin	128	142	26	-	112	-	138	4	-
Burkina Faso	86	77	25	1	49	-	75	2	-
Cape Verde Island	30	16	3	-	11	-	14	2	-
Côte d'Ivoire	330	221	43	1	170	-	214	7	-
Gambia	45	37	1	-	29	-	30	7	-
Ghana	1 798	1 671	151	11	1 443	-	1 605	66	-
Guinea	154	131	16	1	58	-	75	56	-
Guinea-Bissau	16	16	2	-	6	5	13	3	-
Liberia	73	57	11	-	46	-	57	-	-
Mali	145	126	46	-	50	2	98	28	-
Mauritania	21	23	12	-	11	-	23	-	-
Niger	49	26	10	1	15	-	26	-	-
Nigeria	3 600	3 253	246	11	2 741	2	3 000	249	4
Saint Helena	10	14	6	-	7	-	13	1	-
Senegal	173	126	27	4	88	-	119	7	-
Sierra Leone	111	87	22	-	59	-	81	6	-
Togo	61	53	8	-	44	-	52	1	-
North Africa	1 615	1 393	255	24	1 040	6	1 325	68	-
Algeria	134	100	19	2	77	-	98	2	-
Egypt	886	693	86	5	578	1	670	23	-
Libya	47	64	11	7	12	-	30	34	-
Morocco	182	203	46	6	141	3	196	7	-
South Sudan	69	66	3	-	63	-	66	-	-
The Sudan	165	138	47	2	85	2	136	2	-
Tunisia	132	129	43	2	84	-	129	-	-
Unspecified	1 342	1 402	75	5	955	1	1 036	366	-

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

Country of residence	February			Purpose of visit (February 2020)			
	2019	2020	% change 2019–2020	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Total	797 181	800 815	0,5%	16 773	778 066	5 426	550
Overseas	246 394	248 037	0,7%	6354	240 801	800	82
Europe	169 025	173 962	2,9%	3893	169 597	416	56
Austria	4 493	4 109	-8,5%	63	4 044	2	-
Belgium	4 703	5 045	7,3%	145	4 866	31	3
Denmark	3 813	3 874	1,6%	45	3 821	7	1
France	17 246	16 485	-4,4%	379	16 035	70	1
Germany	36 692	42 302	15,3%	565	41 665	69	3
Ireland	2 901	3 180	9,6%	91	3 084	2	3
Italy	4 603	4 429	-3,8%	158	4 255	15	1
Norway	2 835	2 541	-10,4%	52	2 464	23	2
Portugal	2 773	2 744	-1,0%	77	2 658	3	6
Spain	2 243	2 239	-0,2%	133	2 093	12	1
Sweden	6 688	5 797	-13,3%	104	5 683	10	-
Switzerland	6 207	6 029	-2,9%	80	5 936	11	2
The Netherlands	13 297	13 543	1,9%	275	13 182	74	12
UK	50 125	50 644	1,0%	1317	49 259	48	20
Other	10 406	11 001	5,7%	409	10 552	39	1
North America	30 016	32 806	9,3%	814	31 893	81	18
Canada	6 149	6 488	5,5%	165	6 316	4	3
USA	23 867	26 318	10,3%	649	25 577	77	15
Central and South America	9 950	11 120	11,8%	112	10 976	29	3
Argentina	2 523	1 927	-23,6%	6	1 918	3	-
Brazil	4 838	6 922	43,1%	43	6 863	13	3
Chile	1 223	778	-36,4%	6	771	1	-
Other	1 366	1 493	9,3%	57	1 424	12	-

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

Country of residence	February			Purpose of visit (February 2020)			
	2019	2020	% change 2019–2020	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Australasia	7 447	8 607	15,6%	243	8 355	8	1
Australia	6 696	7 239	8,1%	219	7 012	7	1
New Zealand	730	1 348	84,7%	22	1 325	1	-
Other	21	20	-4,8%	2	18	-	-
Middle East	4 066	4 261	4,8%	170	4 040	51	-
Israel	2 567	2 325	-9,4%	47	2 278	-	-
Lebanon	240	294	22,5%	38	253	3	-
Saudi Arabia	502	894	78,1%	22	856	16	-
Other	757	748	-1,2%	63	653	32	-
Asia	25 890	17 281	-33,3%	1 122	15 940	215	4
Bangladesh	585	408	-30,3%	11	396	1	-
China	9 948	1 992	-80,0%	87	1 881	23	1
India	6 619	6 985	5,5%	638	6 248	97	2
Japan	1 908	2 154	12,9%	119	2 024	10	1
Malaysia	509	492	-3,3%	26	459	7	-
Pakistan	1 217	1 201	-1,3%	53	1 133	15	-
Philippines	480	442	-7,9%	25	408	9	-
Singapore	462	563	21,9%	52	509	2	-
South Korea	2 148	1 593	-25,8%	35	1 527	31	-
Thailand	497	436	-12,3%	22	413	1	-
Other	1 517	1 015	-33,1%	54	942	19	-
Africa	549 445	551 376	0,4%	10 342	535 945	4 625	464
SADC	534 866	538 349	0,7%	9 281	524 947	3 724	397
Angola	5 936	5 026	-15,3%	124	4 664	207	31
Botswana	40 437	46 469	14,9%	422	45 578	258	211
DRC	2 753	2 441	-11,3%	113	2 063	228	37
Eswatini	62 622	63 357	1,2%	193	62 862	299	3

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

Country of residence	February			Purpose of visit (February 2020)			
	2019	2020	% change 2019–2020	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Lesotho	108 081	113 820	5,3%	846	111 885	1 089	-
Madagascar	189	211	11,6%	11	191	8	1
Malawi	14 723	13 444	-8,7%	142	13 193	103	6
Mauritius	1 838	1 766	-3,9%	65	1 650	50	1
Mozambique	106 481	104 587	-1,8%	2 026	102 439	100	22
Namibia	13 381	12 543	-6,3%	1 992	10 170	355	26
Seychelles	734	582	-20,7%	7	571	4	-
Tanzania	2 958	2 984	0,9%	99	2 783	99	3
Zambia	12 129	11 081	-8,6%	1 325	9 596	143	17
Zimbabwe	162 604	160 038	-1,6%	1 916	157 302	781	39
'Other' African	14 579	13 027	-10,6%	1 061	10 998	901	67
East and Central Africa	6 134	5 558	-9,4%	530	4 558	430	40
Burundi	89	78	-12,4%	5	67	6	-
Cameroon	392	411	4,8%	33	312	54	12
Central African Republic	13	12	-7,7%	4	8	-	-
Chad	36	31	-13,9%	1	25	3	2
Comoros	16	36	125,0%	2	30	3	1
Congo	244	129	-47,1%	9	95	24	1
Djibouti	11	5	-54,5%	1	4	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	48	21	-56,3%	1	12	8	-
Eritrea	54	43	-20,4%	-	43	-	-
Ethiopia	614	538	-12,4%	25	484	26	3
Gabon	505	514	1,8%	4	395	112	3
Kenya	2 613	2 358	-9,8%	308	1 924	116	10
Réunion	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rwanda	72	72	0,0%	5	60	6	1
São Tomé and Príncipe	3	6	100,0%	-	6	-	-
Somalia	135	34	-74,8%	1	30	3	-
Uganda	1 288	1 270	-1,4%	131	1 063	69	7

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

Country of residence	February			Purpose of visit (February 2020)			
	2019	2020	% change 2019–2020	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
West Africa	6 830	6 076	-11,0%	382	5 279	392	23
Benin	128	142	10,9%	13	122	7	-
Burkina Faso	86	77	-10,5%	15	60	2	-
Cape Verde Island	30	16	-46,7%	-	16	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	330	221	-33,0%	36	179	6	-
Gambia	45	37	-17,8%	2	32	3	-
Ghana	1 798	1 671	-7,1%	115	1 492	59	5
Guinea	154	131	-14,9%	11	111	9	-
Guinea-Bissau	16	16	0,0%	2	14	-	-
Liberia	73	57	-21,9%	10	44	1	2
Mali	145	126	-13,1%	35	86	4	1
Mauritania	21	23	9,5%	6	17	-	-
Niger	49	26	-46,9%	7	19	-	-
Nigeria	3 600	3 253	-9,6%	102	2 847	292	12
Saint Helena	10	14	40,0%	-	13	-	1
Senegal	173	126	-27,2%	20	101	4	1
Sierra Leone	111	87	-21,6%	6	75	5	1
Togo	61	53	-13,1%	2	51	-	-
North Africa	1 615	1 393	-13,7%	149	1 161	79	4
Algeria	134	100	-25,4%	9	89	2	-
Egypt	886	693	-21,8%	80	593	20	-
Libya	47	64	36,2%	-	56	7	1
Morocco	182	203	11,5%	29	168	6	-
South Sudan	69	66	-4,3%	4	56	5	1
The Sudan	165	138	-16,4%	9	90	37	2
Tunisia	132	129	-2,3%	18	109	2	-
Unspecified	1 342	1 402	4,5%	77	1 320	1	4

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

Sex	Age group	February		Region (February 2020)			
		2019	2020	Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	797 181	800 815	248 037	538 349	13 027	1 402
	0-14	31 938	31 792	14 733	16 657	394	8
	15-24	68 339	62 845	16 952	44 986	886	21
	25-34	210 748	205 675	42 510	159 450	3 519	196
	35-44	215 095	219 862	39 689	175 332	4 437	404
	45-54	129 910	135 175	42 974	89 362	2 409	430
	55-64	84 023	86 138	47 602	37 194	1 032	310
	65+	57 128	59 328	43 577	15 368	350	33
Male	Total	448 900	450 209	132 474	308 445	8 430	860
	0-14	16 269	16 203	7 626	8 397	177	3
	15-24	35 624	33 007	7 732	24 792	467	16
	25-34	116 574	113 228	21 136	89 886	2 078	128
	35-44	130 955	132 549	23 329	105 879	3 131	210
	45-54	75 999	79 382	24 541	52 883	1 683	275
	55-64	44 254	45 536	25 092	19 568	674	202
	65+	29 225	30 304	23 018	7 040	220	26
Female	Total	348 281	350 606	115 563	229 904	4 597	542
	0-14	15 669	15 589	7 107	8 260	217	5
	15-24	32 715	29 838	9 220	20 194	419	5
	25-34	94 174	92 447	21 374	69 564	1 441	68
	35-44	84 140	87 313	16 360	69 453	1 306	194
	45-54	53 911	55 793	18 433	36 479	726	155
	55-64	39 769	40 602	22 510	17 626	358	108
	65+	27 903	29 024	20 559	8 328	130	7

4. Annexures

4.1 Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists' difference between Jan – Feb 2019 and Jan – Feb 2020 by country of residence

Country of residence	Jan – Feb 2019	Jan – Feb 2020	Difference between Jan – Feb 2019 and Jan – Feb 2020	% change between Jan – Feb 2019 and Jan – Feb 2020
Total	1 865 371	1 894 083	28 712	1,5%
Overseas	479 266	490 587	11 321	2,4%
Europe	320 958	331 770	10 812	3,4%
Austria	7 856	7 329	-527	-6,7%
Belgium	8 390	8 844	454	5,4%
Denmark	6 945	7 146	201	2,9%
France	30 841	28 994	-1 847	-6,0%
Germany	68 193	77 369	9 176	13,5%
Ireland	5 923	6 312	389	6,6%
Italy	9 220	9 122	-98	-1,1%
Portugal	5 210	5 347	137	2,6%
Russian Federation	3 412	4 420	1 008	29,5%
Spain	4 568	4 506	-62	-1,4%
Sweden	12 816	11 466	-1 350	-10,5%
Switzerland	12 000	11 400	-600	-5,0%
The Netherlands	26 185	26 319	134	0,5%
UK	96 758	100 080	3 322	3,4%
Other	22 641	23 116	475	2,1%
North America	60 136	64 400	4 264	7,1%
Canada	12 076	12 418	342	2,8%
USA	48 060	51 982	3 922	8,2%
Central and South America	21 911	23 687	1 776	8,1%
Argentina	5 940	4 053	-1 887	-31,8%
Brazil	11 361	15 462	4 101	36,1%
Chile	1 855	1 310	-545	-29,4%
Other	2 755	2 862	107	3,9%

Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists' difference between Jan – Feb 2019 and Jan – Feb 2020 by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	Jan – Feb 2019	Jan – Feb 2020	Difference between Jan – Feb 2019 and Jan – Feb 2020	% change between Jan – Feb 2019 and Jan – Feb 2020
Australasia	17 314	18 191	877	5,1%
Australia	15 676	15 381	-295	-1,9%
New Zealand	1 602	2 779	1 177	73,5%
Other	36	31	-5	-13,9%
Middle East	7 628	9 495	1 867	24,5%
Israel	4 756	4 540	-216	-4,5%
Lebanon	456	551	95	20,8%
Saudi Arabia	957	2 814	1 857	194,0%
Other	1 459	1 590	131	9,0%
Asia	51 319	43 044	-8 275	-16,1%
Bangladesh	1 099	923	-176	-16,0%
China	17 910	10 791	-7 119	-39,7%
India	13 519	14 437	918	6,8%
Japan	4 587	4 107	-480	-10,5%
Malaysia	947	1 089	142	15,0%
Pakistan	2 573	2 536	-37	-1,4%
Philippines	921	914	-7	-0,8%
Singapore	857	1 013	156	18,2%
South Korea	5 194	3 671	-1 523	-29,3%
Taiwan	1 133	946	-187	-16,5%
Other	2 579	2 617	38	1,5%
Africa	1 383 846	1 401 074	17 228	1,2%
SADC	1 354 761	1 375 384	20 623	1,5%
Angola	14 291	11 296	-2 995	-21,0%
Botswana	80 146	90 591	10 445	13,0%
DRC	5 341	5 143	-198	-3,7%
Eswatini	132 265	137 727	5 462	4,1%

Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists' difference between Jan – Feb 2019 and Jan – Feb 2020 by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	Jan – Feb 2019	Jan – Feb 2020	Difference between Jan – Feb 2019 and Jan – Feb 2020	% change between Jan – Feb 2019 and Jan – Feb 2020
Lesotho	303 597	318 611	15 014	4,9%
Madagascar	381	446	65	17,1%
Malawi	32 138	32 210	72	0,2%
Mauritius	3 554	3 511	-43	-1,2%
Mozambique	268 874	266 161	-2 713	-1,0%
Namibia	27 864	27 088	-776	-2,8%
Seychelles	1 249	986	-263	-21,1%
Tanzania	5 979	6 257	278	4,6%
Zambia	25 185	23 337	-1 848	-7,3%
Zimbabwe	453 897	452 020	-1 877	-0,4%
'Other' African	29 085	25 690	-3 395	-11,7%
East and Central Africa	12 005	10 891	-1 114	-9,3%
Burundi	160	153	-7	-4,4%
Cameroon	829	793	-36	-4,3%
Central African Republic	19	16	-3	-15,8%
Chad	54	40	-14	-25,9%
Comoros	32	52	20	62,5%
Congo	464	288	-176	-37,9%
Djibouti	20	9	-11	-55,0%
Equatorial Guinea	85	58	-27	-31,8%
Eritrea	137	72	-65	-47,4%
Ethiopia	1 245	1 178	-67	-5,4%
Gabon	1 179	1 006	-173	-14,7%
Kenya	4 785	4 507	-278	-5,8%
Réunion	9	17	8	88,9%
Rwanda	139	141	2	1,4%
São Tomé and Príncipe	7	12	5	71,4%
Somalia	309	75	-234	-75,7%
Uganda	2 532	2 474	-58	-2,3%

Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists' difference between Jan – Feb 2019 and Jan – Feb 2020 by country of residence (concluded)

Country of residence	Jan – Feb 2019	Jan – Feb 2020	Difference between Jan – Feb 2019 and Jan – Feb 2020	% change between Jan – Feb 2019 and Jan – Feb 2020
West Africa	13 698	11 722	-1 976	-14,4%
Benin	252	254	2	0,8%
Burkina Faso	129	118	-11	-8,5%
Cape Verde Island	56	40	-16	-28,6%
Côte d'Ivoire	530	426	-104	-19,6%
Gambia	72	92	20	27,8%
Ghana	3 343	3 281	-62	-1,9%
Guinea	269	227	-42	-15,6%
Guinea-Bissau	26	25	-1	-3,8%
Liberia	129	81	-48	-37,2%
Mali	225	216	-9	-4,0%
Mauritania	29	29	0	0,0%
Niger	66	48	-18	-27,3%
Nigeria	7 974	6 433	-1 541	-19,3%
Saint Helena	17	26	9	52,9%
Senegal	326	226	-100	-30,7%
Sierra Leone	160	122	-38	-23,8%
Togo	95	78	-17	-17,9%
North Africa	3 382	3 077	-305	-9,0%
Algeria	380	218	-162	-42,6%
Egypt	1 758	1 644	-114	-6,5%
Libya	163	131	-32	-19,6%
Morocco	369	374	5	1,4%
South Sudan	126	171	45	35,7%
The Sudan	324	293	-31	-9,6%
Tunisia	260	246	-14	-5,4%
Western Sahara	2		-2	-100,0%
Unspecified	2 259	2 422	163	7,2%

5. 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.

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 February 2020, the DHA data was 1,7% 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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