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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 2022. 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 1 105 685 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry/exit in February 2022. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 359 686 South African residents and 745 999 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 173 089 arrivals, 186 410 departures and 187 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 398 619, 333 057 and 14 323 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in February 2021 and February 2022 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and travellers in transit increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 166,5% (from 64 943 in February 2021 to 173 089 in February 2022). Departures increased by 179,5% (from 66 694 in February 2021 to 186 410 in February 2022), and transits increased by 233,9% (from 56 in February 2021 to 187 in February 2022). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 192,0% (from 136 510 in February 2021 to 398 619 in February 2022), departures increased by 191,0% (from 114 436 in February 2021 to 333 057 in February 2022), and transits increased by 348,6% (from 3 193 in February 2021 to 14 323 in February 2022).

A comparison between the movements in January 2022 and February 2022 indicates that the volume of arrivals decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers, whereas departures and travellers in transits increased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 22,0% (from 221 890 in January 2022 to 173 089 in February 2022), departures increased by 4,8% (from 177 890 in January 2022 to 186 410 in February 2022) and transits increased by 19,9% (from 156 in January 2022 to 187 in February 2022). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 17,0% (from 480 117 in January 2022 to 398 619 in February 2022), departures increased by 7,4% (from 310 131 in January 2022 to 333 057 in February 2022) and transits increased by 24,9% (from 11 463 in January 2022 to 14 323 in February 2022).

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 February 2022, 35 918 (9,0%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 362 701 (91,0%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in February 2022 but did not depart in February 2022 [141 362 (39,0%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in February 2022 and left in February 2022 [122 317 (33,7%)]; and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in February 2022 [99 022 (27,3%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In February 2022, there were 52 528 (14,5%) same-day visitors and 310 173 (85,5%) tourists. Between February 2021 and February 2022, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 332,9% (from 12 133 in February 2021 to 52 528 in February 2022) and that of tourists increased by 244,0% (from 90 165 in February 2021 to 310 173 in February 2022). Between January 2022 and February 2022, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by less than 0,1% (from 52 551 in January 2022 to 52 528 in February 2022) and that of tourists decreased by 17,9% (from 377 651 in January 2022 to 310 173 in February 2022).

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 February 2022, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 654 941 (59,2%) of the 1 105 685 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 428 314 (38,7%). Compared to air and land transport, a smaller number of travellers, 22 430 (2,0%) used sea transport into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 71 852 (41,5%) came by air, 93 079 (53,8%) came by road and 8 158 (4,7%) arrived by sea. For departures, 84 507 (45,3%) used air, 93 976 (50,4%) used road and 7 927 (4,3%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 187 (100,0%) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 136 861 (34,3%) arrived by air, 258 586 (64,9%) came by road and 3 172 (0,8%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 120 584 (36,2%) foreign travellers left by air, 209 300 (62,8%) left by road and 3 173 (1,0%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 14 323 (100,0%) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that of the 52 528 same-day visitors, a majority, 46 142 (87,8%) arrived in the country by road, 6 355 (12,1%) flew into the country and 31 (0,1%) arrived by sea. Information on tourists shows that 187 382 (60,4%) used road transport, 122 305 (39,4%) came by air transport and 486 (0,2%) 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 February 2022, 88 830 (94,6%) of the 93 899 overseas tourists arrived in the country by air transport, whilst 4 646 (4,9%) came in by road transport and 423 (0,5%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 182 109 (87,0%), whilst 27 243 (13,0%) came by air and 60 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 5 905 (93,0%); 440 (6,9%) used road transport and three (less than 0,1%) used sea transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In February 2022, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 71 574 (76,2%); North America, 11 584 (12,3%); Asia, 5 870 (6,3%); Australasia, 2 046 (2,2%); The Middle East, 1 590 (1,7%) and Central and South America, 1 235 (1,3%).

Figure 1 on page 7 indicates that the ten leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in February 2022 were: United Kingdom (UK), 24 087 (25,7%); Germany, 16 030 (17,1%); United States of America (USA), 9 928 (10,6%); The Netherlands, 6 483 (6,9%); France, 5 499 (5,9%); Switzerland, 2 988 (3,2%); India, 2 790 (3,0%); Belgium, 2 378 (2,5%); Australia, 1 814 (1,9%) and Canada, 1 656 (1,8%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 78,4% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the ten leading countries between February 2021 and February 2022 shows that the number of tourists increased for all ten leading countries. UK had the highest increase of 2 225,0% (from 1 036 tourists in February 2021 to 24 087 tourists in February 2022).

Virtually, most tourists from Africa, 209 412 (97,1%), came from SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: East and Central Africa, 2 940 (1,4%); West Africa, 2 766 (1,3%) and North Africa 642 (0,3%). Ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in February 2022 were: Mozambique, 60 393 (28,8%); Zimbabwe, 46 370 (22,1%); Lesotho, 41 767 (19,9%); Eswatini, 21 231 (10,1%); Botswana, 11 821 (5,6%); Namibia, 8 843 (4,2%); Zambia, 7 315 (3,5%); Malawi, 6 373 (3,0%); Angola, 1 760 (0,8%) and Tanzania, 1 554 (0,7%) (see Figure 2 on page 7). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,1% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in February 2021 and February 2022 for all ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists increased for all ten leading countries. Angola showed the highest increase of 1 471,4% (from 112 tourists in February 2021 to 1 760 in February 2022).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in February 2022 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8, were: Nigeria, 1 568 (24,7%); Kenya, 1 349 (21,3%); Ghana, 807 (12,7%); Uganda 504 (7,9%); Ethiopia, 323 (5,1%); Egypt, 305 (4,8%); Cameroon, 279 (4,4%); Gabon, 181 (2,9%); Algeria, 121 (1,9%) and Congo, 96 (1,5%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 87,2% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in February 2021 and February 2022 shows that the number of tourists increased for all ten leading countries. Algeria showed the highest increase of 1 916,7% (from 6 tourists in February 2021 to 121 in February 2022).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

Table 4 on pages 15 to 18, shows the number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit. It is observed that in February 2022, the majority of tourists, 288 520 (93,0%), were in South Africa for holiday¹ compared to 16 650 (5,4%); 4 633 (1,5%) and 370 (0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and medical treatment respectively.

Within the overseas regions, Australasia had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for holiday, 98,4% (2 013), followed by North America, 98,0% (11 355); Europe, 97,9% (70 036); Central and South America, 96,3% (1 189); The Middle East, 95,5% (1 519) and Asia, 92,8% (5 446).

Asia, 5,1% (298) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business, followed by Central and South America, 1,8% (22); The Middle East, 1,8% (28); Europe, 1,5% (1 096); North America, 1,5% (173) and Australasia, 1,4% (28).

The Middle East, 2,6% (41) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to study, followed by Asia, 2,0% (118); Central and South America, 1,9% (23); Europe, 0,6% (405); North America, 0,4% (51) and Australasia, 0,1% (3).

Five of the six overseas regions had 0,1% of their tourists who came to South Africa for medical treatment. Asia, 0,1% (8); The Middle East, 0,1% (2); Australasia, 0,1% (2); Central and South America, 0,1% (1); Europe, 0,1% (37) and North America, less than 0,1% (5) came to South Africa for medical treatment.

The majority of African tourists, 196 465 (91,1%) 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 91,2% (190 919) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 87,4% (5 546) from 'other' African countries. Information on the regions of 'other' African countries shows that 91,6% (2 535) of tourists from West Africa were on holiday, followed by tourists from North Africa, 86,4% (555); and those from East and Central Africa 83,5% (2 456).
- Business persons constituted 7,0% (14 689) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 4,7% (299) from 'other' African countries. East and Central Africa, 6,8% (200) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes, followed by North Africa, 4,0% (26) and West Africa, 2,6% (73).
- Students constituted 7,3% (463) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 1,7% (3 529) from SADC countries. North Africa, 9,5% (61) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes, followed by East and Central Africa, 8,7% (255) and West Africa, 5,3% (147).
- Tourists who came for medical treatment constituted 0,6% (40) of tourists from 'other' African countries, while those from SADC constituted 0,1% (275). East and Central Africa, 1,0% (29) had the highest proportion of tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by West Africa, 0,4% (11) and North Africa had no tourists on medical treatment.

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.

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 192 667 (62,1%) male and 117 506 (37,9%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 51 502 (54,8%) male tourists and 42 397 (45,2%) female tourists. There were 136 632 (65,2%) male and 72 780 (34,8%) female tourists from SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 4 209 (66,3%) male and 2 139 (33,7%) female.

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 [90 816 (29,3%)]. Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results show that the highest proportion of tourists from SADC countries [71 810 (34,3%)] and those from 'other' African countries [2 108 (33,2%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years, whereas those from overseas countries [18 331 (19,5%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years.

The second highest proportion of tourists from SADC countries [48 422 (23,1%)] and those from 'other' African countries [1 875 (29,5%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years, whereas those from overseas countries [16 742 (17,8%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years. The median ages of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African countries were 42, 39 and 37 years respectively. The proportion of tourists younger than 15 years was higher among tourists from overseas countries, 8,5% (8 024) followed by those from SADC countries, 3,2% (6 711) and those from 'other' African countries, 3,2% (205).

A comparison of the three regions shows higher proportions of the elderly (those aged 65 years and older) among both male and female tourists from overseas. This comprised of 13,3% (6 854) males and 13,7% (5 819) females from overseas countries. However, tourists aged 65 years and older from the other two regions comprised of less than 4,0% of both male and female tourists: Elderly tourists from SADC countries made up of 2,1% (2 937) males and 3,7% (2 665) females; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 2,1% (89) and 3,1% (66) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in February 2021 and February 2022

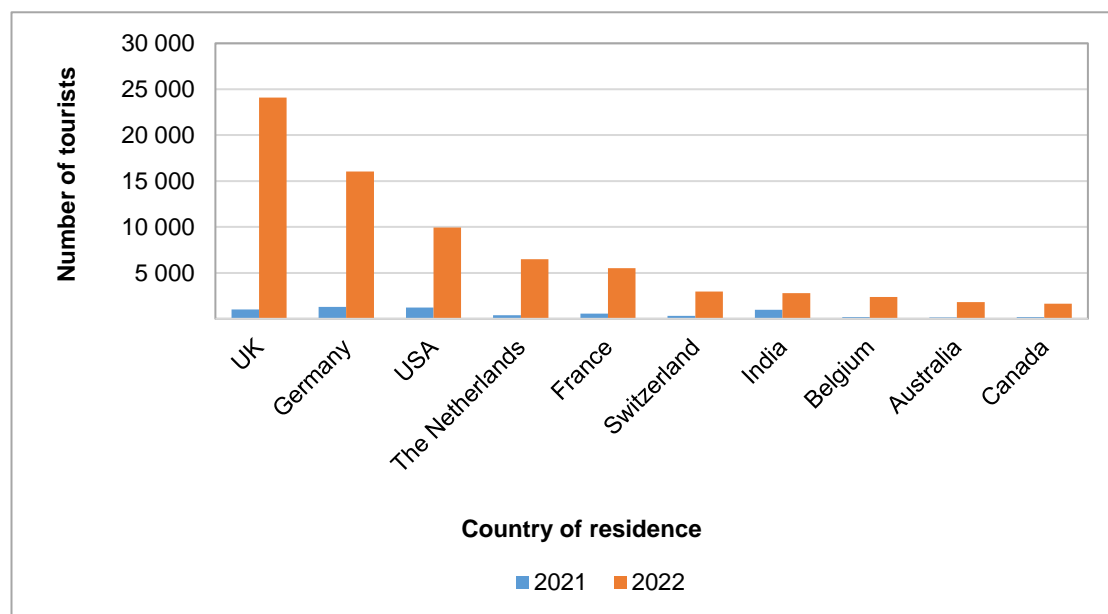


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in February 2021 and February 2022

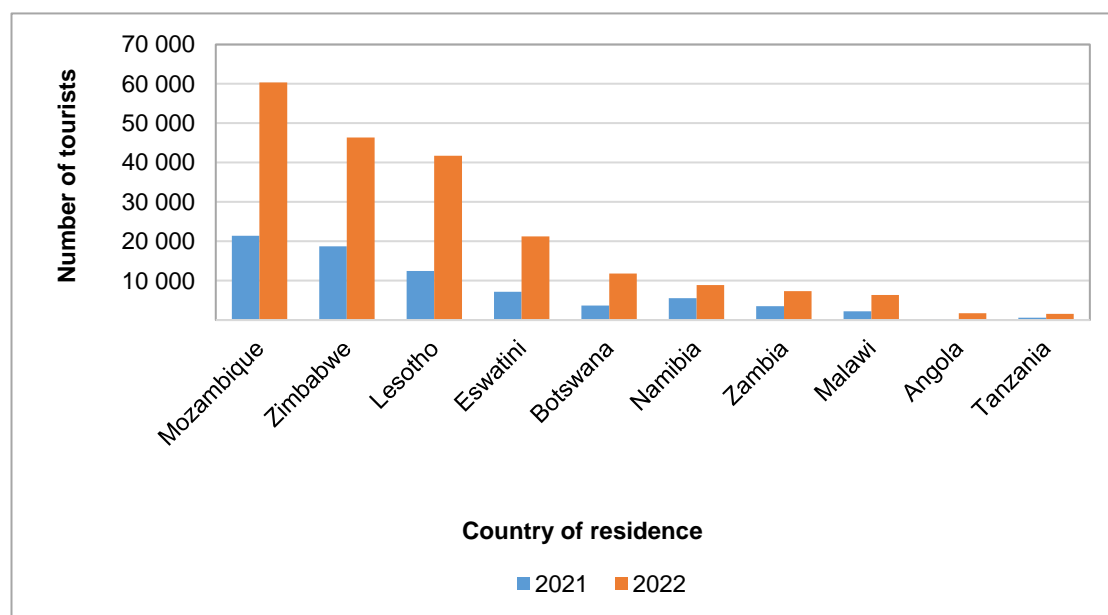
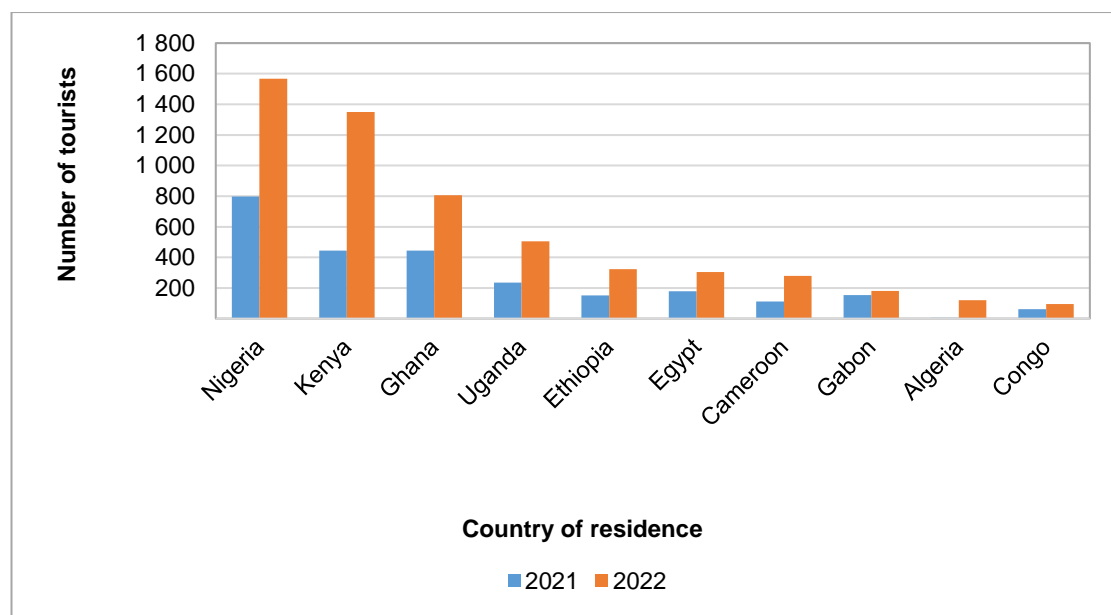


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in February 2021 and February 2022



3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	February 2021	January 2022	February 2022	% Change Jan 2022 – Feb 2022	% Change Feb 2021 – Feb 2022
Total	385 832	1 201 647	1 105 685	-8,0%	186,6%
South African residents	131 693	399 936	359 686	-10,1%	173,1%
Arrivals	64 943	221 890	173 089	-22,0%	166,5%
Departures	66 694	177 890	186 410	4,8%	179,5%
Transits	56	156	187	19,9%	233,9%
Foreign travellers	254 139	801 711	745 999	-6,9%	193,5%
Arrivals	136 510	480 117	398 619	-17,0%	192,0%
Departures	114 436	310 131	333 057	7,4%	191,0%
Transits	3 193	11 463	14 323	24,9%	348,6%
Foreign arrivals	136 510	480 117	398 619	-17,0%	192,0%
Non-visitors	34 212	49 915	35 918	-28,0%	5,0%
Visitors	102 298	430 202	362 701	-15,7%	254,6%
Visitors	102 298	430 202	362 701	-15,7%	254,6%
Arrivals only	43 503	220 130	141 362	-35,8%	224,9%
Single trips	24 057	103 519	122 317	18,2%	408,4%
Multiple trips	34 738	106 553	99 022	-7,1%	185,1%
Visitors	102 298	430 202	362 701	-15,7%	254,6%
Same-day	12 133	52 551	52 528	-0,04%	332,9%
Overnight (Tourists)	90 165	377 651	310 173	-17,9%	244,0%

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

Travel direction	Total	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	1 105 685	125 241	10 139	290 243	2 691	428 314	654 941	22 430
South African residents	359 686	29 586	6 252	118 913	1 795	156 546	187 055	16 085
Arrivals	173 089	13 451	2 419	55 124	858	71 852	93 079	8 158
Departures	186 410	16 128	3 833	63 609	937	84 507	93 976	7 927
Transit	187	7	-	180	-	187	-	-
Foreign travellers	745 999	95 655	3 887	171 330	896	271 768	467 886	6 345
Arrivals	398 619	51 939	1 838	82 652	432	136 861	258 586	3 172
Departures	333 057	43 536	2 049	74 535	464	120 584	209 300	3 173
Transit	14 323	180	-	14 143	-	14 323	-	-
Visitors	362 701	49 885	1 065	77 426	284	128 660	233 524	517
Same-day	52 528	519	8	5 781	47	6 355	46 142	31
Tourist	310 173	49 366	1 057	71 645	237	122 305	187 382	486

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, February 2022

Country of residence	February		February 2022						
	2021	2022	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	90 165	310 173	49 366	1 057	71 645	237	122 305	187 382	486
Overseas	10 745	93 899	44 773	966	42 949	142	88 830	4 646	423
Europe	6 403	71 574	38 545	611	29 604	75	68 835	2 529	210
Austria	116	1 398	981	11	359	-	1 351	40	7
Belgium	196	2 378	1 294	9	986	5	2 294	80	4
Denmark	51	1 351	432	12	870	-	1 314	36	1
France	570	5 499	1 947	19	3 273	6	5 245	247	7
Germany	1 299	16 030	10 837	115	4 585	5	15 542	354	134
Ireland	99	1 498	804	21	617	2	1 444	54	-
Italy	229	1 178	546	15	564	1	1 126	51	1
Portugal	137	1 062	164	6	405	1	576	486	-
Russian Federation	692	1 202	803	24	321	-	1 148	51	3
Spain	152	848	328	6	454	-	788	55	5
Sweden	130	1 492	935	22	449	3	1 409	83	-
Switzerland	307	2 988	1 749	21	1 132	13	2 915	68	5
The Netherlands	395	6 483	4 087	38	2 176	2	6 303	178	2
UK	1 036	24 087	11 841	232	11 455	24	23 552	501	34
Other	994	4 080	1 797	60	1 958	13	3 828	245	7
North America	1 420	11 584	4 510	75	6 168	46	10 799	619	166
Canada	179	1 656	637	12	919	4	1 572	68	16
USA	1 241	9 928	3 873	63	5 249	42	9 227	551	150
Central and South America	341	1 235	375	13	681	3	1 072	160	3
Argentina	20	110	28	2	67	-	97	11	2
Brazil	180	689	252	4	320	2	578	110	1
Mexico	27	95	27	4	59	1	91	4	-
Other	114	341	68	3	235	-	306	35	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, February 2022 (continued)

Country of residence	February		February 2022						
	2021	2022	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	166	2 046	185	20	1 773	2	1 980	53	13
Australia	142	1 814	140	16	1 602	1	1 759	42	13
New Zealand	24	229	45	4	168	1	218	11	-
Other	-	3	-	-	3	-	3	-	-
Middle East	206	1 590	489	14	1 033	5	1 541	49	-
Israel	43	963	258	9	672	5	944	19	-
Jordan	25	101	12	-	77	-	89	12	-
Saudi Arabia	42	213	117	4	90	-	211	2	-
Other	96	313	102	1	194	-	297	16	-
Asia	2 209	5 870	669	233	3 690	11	4 603	1 236	31
Bangladesh	58	500	120	22	295	-	437	60	3
China	335	632	24	-	425	7	456	174	2
India	983	2 790	268	103	1 863	3	2 237	534	19
Japan	48	130	23	2	88	1	114	16	-
Malaysia	12	88	16	9	59	-	84	4	-
Pakistan	423	831	56	68	461	-	585	244	2
Philippines	144	230	36	11	153	-	200	27	3
South Korea	54	200	22	3	123	-	148	52	-
Taiwan	22	76	5	1	10	-	16	60	-
Thailand	69	154	34	11	95	-	140	13	1
Other	61	239	65	3	118	-	186	52	1
Africa	79 266	215 760	4 563	91	28 399	95	33 148	182 549	63
SADC	76 298	209 412	3 748	31	23 377	87	27 243	182 109	60
Angola	112	1 760	617	1	911	13	1 542	218	-
Botswana	3 682	11 821	161	5	1 238	16	1 420	10 385	16
DRC	795	1 178	78	-	946	1	1 025	153	-
Eswatini	7 173	21 231	5	-	268	4	277	20 948	6

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, February 2022 (continued)

Country of residence	February		February 2022						
	2021	2022	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Lesotho	12 488	41 767	4	2	206	1	213	41 531	23
Madagascar	24	32	2	-	23	2	27	5	-
Malawi	2 215	6 373	24	-	1 258	8	1 290	5 083	-
Mauritius	29	655	18	-	577	4	599	56	-
Mozambique	21 406	60 393	6	10	1 749	7	1 772	58 617	4
Namibia	5 585	8 843	1 140	1	1 449	15	2 605	6 233	5
Seychelles	9	120	1	1	117	-	119	1	-
Tanzania	587	1 554	133	1	819	3	956	595	3
Zambia	3 504	7 315	12	-	2 227	6	2 245	5 070	-
Zimbabwe	18 689	46 370	1 547	10	11 589	7	13 153	33 214	3
'Other' African	2 968	6 348	815	60	5 022	8	5 905	440	3
East and Central Africa	1 241	2 940	488	-	2 235	3	2 726	213	1
Burundi	30	36	8	-	26	-	34	2	-
Cameroon	112	279	36	-	234	-	270	9	-
Central African Republic	-	5	1	-	4	-	5	-	-
Chad	6	19	2	-	17	-	19	-	-
Comoros	6	6	-	-	5	1	6	-	-
Congo	62	96	19	-	77	-	96	-	-
Djibouti	1	9	-	-	9	-	9	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	21	7	1	-	6	-	7	-	-
Eritrea	1	51	4	-	47	-	51	-	-
Ethiopia	152	323	37	-	227	1	265	58	-
Gabon	153	181	22	-	155	-	177	4	-
Kenya	444	1 349	266	-	999	1	1 266	82	1
Rwanda	10	41	-	-	28	-	28	13	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	-	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	-
Somalia	7	32	7	-	21	-	28	4	-
Uganda	236	504	85	-	378	-	463	41	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, February 2022 (concluded)

Country of residence	February		February 2022						
	2021	2022	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	1 426	2 766	246	2	2 316	5	2 569	195	2
Benin	31	74	12	-	61	-	73	1	-
Burkina Faso	10	15	2	-	13	-	15	-	-
Cape Verde Island	3	16	2	-	7	1	10	6	-
Côte d'Ivoire	24	76	16	-	56	-	72	4	-
Gambia	4	13	1	-	12	-	13	-	-
Ghana	445	807	75	-	713	-	788	19	-
Guinea	36	72	1	1	43	-	45	27	-
Guinea-Bissau	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Liberia	12	13	2	-	10	-	12	1	-
Mali	11	34	-	-	13	-	13	21	-
Mauritania	-	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	-
Niger	3	4	1	-	3	-	4	-	-
Nigeria	798	1 568	131	-	1 324	2	1 457	109	2
Saint Helena	3	2	-	-	-	2	2	-	-
Senegal	31	51	-	1	49	-	50	1	-
Sierra Leone	6	11	-	-	5	-	5	6	-
Togo	8	7	3	-	4	-	7	-	-
North Africa	301	642	81	58	471	-	610	32	-
Algeria	6	121	1	40	79	-	120	1	-
Egypt	178	305	22	6	251	-	279	26	-
Libya	15	24	4	1	17	-	22	2	-
Morocco	3	52	11	3	37	-	51	1	-
South Sudan	16	34	2	-	32	-	34	-	-
The Sudan	77	54	21	4	27	-	52	2	-
Tunisia	6	52	20	4	28	-	52	-	-
Unspecified	154	514	30	-	297	-	327	187	-

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

Country of residence	February			Purpose of visit (February 2022)			
	2021	2022	% change 2021–2022	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Total	90 165	310 173	244,0%	16 650	288 520	4 633	370
Overseas	10 745	93 899	773,9%	1 645	91 558	641	55
Europe	6 403	71 574	1017,8%	1 096	70 036	405	37
Austria	116	1 398	1105,2%	16	1 377	5	-
Belgium	196	2 378	1113,3%	31	2 303	44	-
Denmark	51	1 351	2549,0%	15	1 336	-	-
France	570	5 499	864,7%	93	5 272	132	2
Germany	1 299	16 030	1134,0%	228	15 723	76	3
Ireland	99	1 498	1413,1%	17	1 478	-	3
Italy	229	1 178	414,4%	55	1 114	8	1
Portugal	137	1 062	675,2%	10	1 047	5	-
Russian Federation	692	1 202	73,7%	7	1 188	5	2
Spain	152	848	457,9%	38	807	3	-
Sweden	130	1 492	1047,7%	27	1 458	7	-
Switzerland	307	2 988	873,3%	17	2 958	13	-
The Netherlands	395	6 483	1541,3%	93	6 348	38	4
UK	1 036	24 087	2225,0%	331	23 702	35	19
Other	994	4 080	310,5%	118	3 925	34	3
North America	1 420	11 584	715,8%	173	11 355	51	5
Canada	179	1 656	825,1%	25	1 627	4	-
USA	1 241	9 928	700,0%	148	9 728	47	5
Central and South America	341	1 235	262,2%	22	1 189	23	1
Argentina	20	110	450,0%	2	105	3	-
Brazil	180	689	282,8%	14	669	6	-
Mexico	27	95	251,9%	1	91	3	-
Other	114	341	199,1%	5	324	11	1

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

Country of residence	February			Purpose of visit (February 2022)			
	2021	2022	% change 2021–2022	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Australasia	166	2 046	1132,5%	28	2 013	3	2
Australia	142	1 814	1177,5%	25	1 784	3	2
New Zealand	24	229	854,2%	2	227	-	-
Other	-	3	-	1	2	-	-
Middle East	206	1 590	671,8%	28	1 519	41	2
Israel	43	963	2139,5%	18	942	1	2
Jordan	25	101	304,0%	1	100	-	-
Saudi Arabia	42	213	407,1%	-	201	12	-
Other	96	313	226,0%	9	276	28	-
Asia	2 209	5 870	165,7%	298	5 446	118	8
Bangladesh	58	500	762,1%	5	490	5	-
China	335	632	88,7%	37	588	5	2
India	983	2 790	183,8%	227	2 495	66	2
Japan	48	130	170,8%	6	117	5	2
Malaysia	12	88	633,3%	3	79	6	-
Pakistan	423	831	96,5%	11	810	10	-
Philippines	144	230	59,7%	1	226	2	1
South Korea	54	200	270,4%	4	189	7	-
Taiwan	22	76	245,5%	2	73	1	-
Thailand	69	154	123,2%	-	152	2	-
Other	61	239	291,8%	2	227	9	1
Africa	79 266	215 760	172,2%	14 988	196 465	3 992	315
SADC	76 298	209 412	174,5%	14 689	190 919	3 529	275
Angola	112	1 760	1471,4%	28	1 639	70	23
Botswana	3 682	11 821	221,0%	827	10 682	209	103
DRC	795	1 178	48,2%	36	1 018	113	11
Eswatini	7 173	21 231	196,0%	1 093	19 857	275	6

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

Country of residence	February			Purpose of visit (February 2022)			
	2021	2022	% change 2021–2022	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Lesotho	12 488	41 767	234,5%	884	39 745	1 103	35
Madagascar	24	32	33,3%	-	25	5	2
Malawi	2 215	6 373	187,7%	178	6 096	83	16
Mauritius	29	655	2158,6%	14	600	36	5
Mozambique	21 406	60 393	182,1%	3 254	57 060	67	12
Namibia	5 585	8 843	58,3%	2 979	5 376	475	13
Seychelles	9	120	1233,3%	-	116	2	2
Tanzania	587	1 554	164,7%	78	1 399	73	4
Zambia	3 504	7 315	108,8%	2 306	4 918	83	8
Zimbabwe	18 689	46 370	148,1%	3 012	42 388	935	35
'Other' African	2 968	6 348	113,9%	299	5 546	463	40
East and Central Africa	1 241	2 940	136,9%	200	2 456	255	29
Burundi	30	36	20,0%	2	30	4	-
Cameroon	112	279	149,1%	15	229	23	12
Central African Republic	-	5	-	-	5	-	-
Chad	6	19	216,7%	3	11	5	-
Comoros	6	6	0,0%	-	1	4	1
Congo	62	96	54,8%	2	85	7	2
Djibouti	1	9	800,0%	-	8	1	-
Equatorial Guinea	21	7	-66,7%	-	2	5	-
Eritrea	1	51	5000,0%	-	50	1	-
Ethiopia	152	323	112,5%	9	298	12	4
Gabon	153	181	18,3%	3	148	29	1
Kenya	444	1 349	203,8%	141	1 105	98	5
Rwanda	10	41	310,0%	1	37	3	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	-	2	-	-	2	-	-
Somalia	7	32	357,1%	-	30	2	-
Uganda	236	504	113,6%	24	415	61	4

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

Country of residence	February			Purpose of visit (February 2022)			
	2021	2022	% change 2021–2022	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
West Africa	1 426	2 766	94,0%	73	2 535	147	11
Benin	31	74	138,7%	2	67	3	2
Burkina Faso	10	15	50,0%	1	11	3	-
Cape Verde Island	3	16	433,3%	-	16	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	24	76	216,7%	9	60	6	1
Gambia	4	13	225,0%	1	11	1	-
Ghana	445	807	81,3%	22	761	23	1
Guinea	36	72	100,0%	4	66	2	-
Guinea-Bissau	1	1	0,0%	-	1	-	-
Liberia	12	13	8,3%	1	11	1	-
Mali	11	34	209,1%	2	31	1	-
Mauritania	-	2	-	-	2	-	-
Niger	3	4	33,3%	-	4	-	-
Nigeria	798	1 568	96,5%	26	1 435	102	5
Saint Helena	3	2	-33,3%	-	-	-	2
Senegal	31	51	64,5%	4	45	2	-
Sierra Leone	6	11	83,3%	-	10	1	-
Togo	8	7	-12,5%	1	4	2	-
North Africa	301	642	113,3%	26	555	61	-
Algeria	6	121	1916,7%	-	121	-	-
Egypt	178	305	71,3%	17	260	28	-
Libya	15	24	60,0%	-	10	14	-
Morocco	3	52	1633,3%	1	50	1	-
South Sudan	16	34	112,5%	1	30	3	-
The Sudan	77	54	-29,9%	4	36	14	-
Tunisia	6	52	766,7%	3	48	1	-
Unspecified	154	514	233,8%	17	497	-	-

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

Sex	Age group	February		Region (February 2022)			
		2021	2022	Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	90 165	310 173	93 899	209 412	6 348	514
	0-14	2 598	14 948	8 024	6 711	205	8
	15-24	7 362	23 908	6 955	16 383	564	6
	25-34	19 869	68 686	18 331	48 422	1 875	58
	35-44	31 692	90 816	16 742	71 810	2 108	156
	45-54	19 436	60 795	15 573	43 970	1 075	177
	55-64	7 150	32 578	15 601	16 514	366	97
	65+	2 058	18 442	12 673	5 602	155	12
Male	Total	67 815	192 667	51 502	136 632	4 209	324
	0-14	1 315	7 642	4 196	3 341	103	2
	15-24	3 956	12 197	3 271	8 556	366	4
	25-34	14 120	40 114	9 252	29 667	1 156	39
	35-44	25 900	61 770	9 968	50 200	1 511	91
	45-54	15 856	41 287	9 233	31 180	758	116
	55-64	5 405	19 771	8 728	10 751	226	66
	65+	1 263	9 886	6 854	2 937	89	6
Female	Total	22 350	117 506	42 397	72 780	2 139	190
	0-14	1 283	7 306	3 828	3 370	102	6
	15-24	3 406	11 711	3 684	7 827	198	2
	25-34	5 749	28 572	9 079	18 755	719	19
	35-44	5 792	29 046	6 774	21 610	597	65
	45-54	3 580	19 508	6 340	12 790	317	61
	55-64	1 745	12 807	6 873	5 763	140	31
	65+	795	8 556	5 819	2 665	66	6

4. Annexures

4.1 Annexure A – Number of tourists' difference between Jan–Feb 2021 and Jan–Feb 2022 by country of residence

Country of residence	Jan – Feb 2021	Jan – Feb 2022	Difference between Jan – Feb 2021 and Jan – Feb 2022	% change between Jan – Feb 2021 and Jan – Feb 2022
Total	229 299	687 824	458 525	200,0%
Overseas	24 432	158 613	134 181	549,2%
Europe	15 085	119 102	104 017	689,5%
Austria	284	2 197	1 913	673,6%
Belgium	576	3 771	3 195	554,7%
Denmark	140	2 125	1 985	1417,9%
France	1 698	7 813	6 115	360,1%
Germany	2 856	26 166	23 310	816,2%
Ireland	234	2 578	2 344	1001,7%
Italy	528	1 999	1 471	278,6%
Portugal	335	1 905	1 570	468,7%
Russian Federation	1 304	2 228	924	70,9%
Spain	400	1 463	1 063	265,8%
Sweden	340	2 460	2 120	623,5%
Switzerland	627	5 277	4 650	741,6%
The Netherlands	1 015	12 091	11 076	1091,2%
UK	2 724	40 173	37 449	1374,8%
Other	2 024	6 856	4 832	238,7%
North America	3 572	20 523	16 951	474,6%
Canada	487	2 734	2 247	461,4%
USA	3 085	17 789	14 704	476,6%
Central and South America	742	2 300	1 558	210,0%
Argentina	44	210	166	377,3%
Brazil	414	1 273	859	207,5%
Mexico	43	168	125	290,7%
Other	241	649	408	169,3%

Annexure A – Number of tourists' difference between Jan–Feb 2021 and Jan–Feb 2022 by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	Jan – Feb 2021	Jan – Feb 2022	Difference between Jan – Feb 2021 and Jan – Feb 2022	% change between Jan – Feb 2021 and Jan – Feb 2022
Australasia	389	3 667	3 278	842,7%
Australia	322	3 273	2 951	916,5%
New Zealand	62	390	328	529,0%
Other	5	4	-1	-20,0%
Middle East	565	2 413	1 848	327,1%
Israel	156	1 354	1 198	767,9%
Lebanon	48	177	129	268,8%
Saudi Arabia	95	366	271	285,3%
Other	266	516	250	94,0%
Asia	4 079	10 608	6 529	160,1%
Bangladesh	107	1 112	1 005	939,3%
China	652	1 042	390	59,8%
India	1 693	4 653	2 960	174,8%
Japan	148	274	126	85,1%
Malaysia	29	139	110	379,3%
Pakistan	710	1 600	890	125,4%
Philippines	286	357	71	24,8%
South Korea	144	455	311	216,0%
Taiwan	45	147	102	226,7%
Thailand	113	297	184	162,8%
Other	152	532	380	250,0%
Africa	204 491	528 200	323 709	158,3%
SADC	198 062	516 057	317 995	160,6%
Angola	400	3 075	2 675	668,8%
Botswana	8 107	23 655	15 548	191,8%
DRC	1 589	2 366	777	48,9%
Eswatini	14 124	43 085	28 961	205,0%

Annexure A – Number of tourists' difference between Jan–Feb 2021 and Jan–Feb 2022 by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	Jan – Feb 2021	Jan – Feb 2022	Difference between Jan – Feb 2021 and Jan – Feb 2022	% change between Jan – Feb 2021 and Jan – Feb 2022
Lesotho	40 116	126 727	86 611	215,9%
Madagascar	54	49	-5	-9,3%
Malawi	4 601	14 589	9 988	217,1%
Mauritius	48	990	942	1962,5%
Mozambique	50 177	156 904	106 727	212,7%
Namibia	10 583	17 219	6 636	62,7%
Seychelles	15	156	141	940,0%
Tanzania	1 309	3 110	1 801	137,6%
Zambia	7 671	14 953	7 282	94,9%
Zimbabwe	59 268	109 179	49 911	84,2%
'Other' African	6 429	12 143	5 714	88,9%
East and Central Africa	2 785	5 541	2 756	99,0%
Burundi	48	81	33	68,8%
Cameroon	251	505	254	101,2%
Central African Republic	2	8	6	300,0%
Chad	14	40	26	185,7%
Comoros	7	15	8	114,3%
Congo	134	198	64	47,8%
Djibouti	1	12	11	1100,0%
Equatorial Guinea	29	15	-14	-48,3%
Eritrea	3	65	62	2066,7%
Ethiopia	340	658	318	93,5%
Gabon	349	283	-66	-18,9%
Kenya	979	2 380	1 401	143,1%
Rwanda	38	82	44	115,8%
São Tomé and Príncipe	1	4	3	300,0%
Somalia	26	70	44	169,2%
Uganda	563	1 125	562	99,8%

Annexure A – Number of tourists' difference between Jan–Feb 2021 and Jan–Feb 2022 by country of residence (concluded)

Country of residence	Jan – Feb 2021	Jan – Feb 2022	Difference between Jan – Feb 2021 and Jan – Feb 2022	% change between Jan – Feb 2021 and Jan – Feb 2022
West Africa	3 047	5 538	2 491	81,8%
Benin	64	129	65	101,6%
Burkina Faso	18	31	13	72,2%
Cape Verde Island	4	20	16	400,0%
Côte d'Ivoire	53	127	74	139,6%
Gambia	9	23	14	155,6%
Ghana	767	1 693	926	120,7%
Guinea	52	121	69	132,7%
Guinea-Bissau	2	3	1	50,0%
Liberia	19	37	18	94,7%
Mali	20	66	46	230,0%
Mauritania	3	3	-	0,0%
Niger	11	14	3	27,3%
Nigeria	1 945	3 116	1 171	60,2%
Saint Helena	3	2	-1	-33,3%
Senegal	51	97	46	90,2%
Sierra Leone	17	42	25	147,1%
Togo	9	14	5	55,6%
North Africa	597	1 064	467	78,2%
Algeria	13	151	138	1061,5%
Egypt	338	514	176	52,1%
Libya	41	47	6	14,6%
Morocco	27	69	42	155,6%
South Sudan	33	59	26	78,8%
The Sudan	125	121	-4	-3,2%
Tunisia	20	103	83	415,0%
Unspecified	376	1 011	635	168,9%

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 is observed when the volume of travellers decreases. In February 2022, the DHA data was 2,1% 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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