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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 January 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 3 930 440 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry/exit in January 2020. As presented in Table 1 on page 10, these travellers were made up of 1 087 571 South African residents and 2 842 869 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 656 050 arrivals, 430 762 departures and 759 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 1 595 388, 1 193 534 and 53 947, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in January 2019 and January 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 4,8% (from 626 128 in January 2019 to 656 050 in January 2020). Departures increased by 6,3% (from 405 062 in January 2019 to 430 762 in January 2020), and transits decreased by 8,7% (from 831 in January 2019 to 759 in January 2020). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 2,2% (from 1 561 510 in January 2019 to 1 595 388 in January 2020), departures increased by 2,0% (from 1 169 796 in January 2019 to 1 193 534 in January 2020), and transits decreased by 2,2% (from 55 135 in January 2019 to 53 947 in January 2020).

A comparison between the movements in December 2019 and January 2020 indicates that the volume of arrivals increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. The volume of departures and travellers in transit decreased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 2,7% (from 638 708 in December 2019 to 656 050 in January 2020), departures decreased by 48,6% (from 838 048 in December 2019 to 430 762 in January 2020), and transits decreased by 8,8% (from 832 in December 2019 to 759 in January 2020). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 2,3% (from 1 559 368 in December 2019 to 1 595 388 in January 2020), departures decreased by 23,5% (from 1 561 121 in December 2019 to 1 193 534 in January 2020), and transits decreased by 9,1% (from 59 373 in December 2019 to 53 947 in January 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 January 2020, 103 620 (6,5%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 491 768 (93,5%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in January 2020 but did not depart in January 2020 [585 538 (39,3%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in January 2020 and left in January 2020 [431 900 (29,0%)];
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in January 2020 [474 330 (31,8%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In January 2020, there were 398 500 (26,7%) same-day visitors and 1 093 268 (73,3%) tourists. Between January 2019 and January 2020, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 4,0% (from 383 332 in January 2019 to 398 500 in January 2020) and that of tourists increased by 2,3% (from 1 068 190 in January 2019 to 1 093 268 in January 2020). Between December 2019 and January 2020, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 20,3% (from 500 145 in December 2019 to 398 500 in January 2020), and tourists increased by 11,4% (from 981 038 in December 2019 to 1 093 268 in January 2020).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Information presented in Table 2 on page 11, shows that in January 2020, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 758 662 (70,2%) of the 3 930 440 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 1 120 918 (28,5%). Compared to the use of air and land transport, a smaller number of travellers, 50 860 (1,3%) used sea transport. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 253 832 (38,7%) came by air, 387 906 (59,1%) came by road and 14 312 (2,2%) arrived by sea transport. For departures, 166 479 (38,6%) used air, 250 067 (58,1%) used road and 14 216 (3,3%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 759 (100,0%) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 310 118 (19,4%) arrived by air, 1 272 997 (79,8%) came by road and 12 273 (0,8%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 335 783 (28,1%) foreign travellers left by air, 847 692 (71,0%) left by road and 10 059 (0,8%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 53 947 (100,0%) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that of the 398 500 same-day visitors, an overwhelming majority, 378 448 (95,0%) arrived in the country by road, 18 690 (4,7%) flew into the country; and 1 362 (0,3%) arrived by sea transport. Information on tourists shows that 816 797 (74,7%) used road transport, 272 544 (24,9%) came by air transport and 3 927 (0,4%) 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 January 2020, 220 644 (91,0%) of the 242 550 overseas tourists arrived in the country by air transport, whilst 18 172 (7,5%) came in by road transport and 3 734 (1,5%) arrived by sea transport. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 797 177 (95,2%), followed by air travel, 39 667 (4,7%) and sea transport, 191 (less than 0,1%). The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 11 616 (91,7%), with 1 045 (8,3%) using road transport and 2 (less than 0,1%) using sea transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In January 2020, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 157 808 (65,1%); North America, 31 594 (13,0%); Asia, 25 763 (10,6%); Central and South America, 12 567 (5,2%); Australasia, 9 584 (4,0%); and the Middle East, 5 234 (2,2%).

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 January 2020 were United Kingdom (UK), 49 436 (20,4%), Germany, 35 067 (14,5%); United States of America (USA), 25 664 (10,6%); The Netherlands, 12 776 (5,3%); France, 12 509 (5,2%); China, 8 799 (3,6%); Brazil, 8 540 (3,5%); Australia, 8 142 (3,4%); India, 7 452 (3,1%); and Canada, 5 930 (2,4%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 71,9% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the ten leading countries between January 2019 and January 2020 shows that the number of tourists increased for seven of the ten leading countries (Brazil, Germany, China, India, USA, UK and Canada), and decreased for three of the ten leading countries (Australia, France and The Netherlands). Brazil had the largest increase of 30,9% (from 6 523 tourists in January 2019 to 8 540 tourists in January 2020). Australia, on the other hand, had the largest decrease of 9,3% (from 8 980 tourists in January 2019 to 8 142 tourists in January 2020).

Virtually, most tourists from Africa, 837 035 (98,5%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 5 646 (0,7%); East and Central Africa, 5 333 (0,6%); and North Africa 1 684 (0,2%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in January 2020 were: Zimbabwe, 291 982 (34,9%); Lesotho, 204 791 (24,5%); Mozambique, 161 574 (19,3%); Eswatini, 74 370 (8,9%); Botswana, 44 122 (5,3%); Malawi, 18 766 (2,2%); Namibia, 14 545 (1,7%); Zambia, 12 256 (1,5%); Angola, 6 270 (0,7%) and Tanzania, 3 273 (0,4%). (See Figure 2 on page 8 and Table 3 on pages 13 to 14). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,4% of all tourists from the SADC countries.

A comparison between movements in January 2019 and January 2020 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists increased for seven of the ten leading countries (Botswana, Tanzania, Malawi, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia and Zimbabwe), and decreased for three of the ten leading countries (Angola, Zambia and Mozambique). Botswana showed the largest increase of 11,1% (from 39 709 tourists in January 2019 to 44 122 in January 2020), while Angola showed the largest decrease of 25,0% (from 8 355 tourists in January 2019 to 6 270 in January 2020).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in January 2020 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 9 and Table 3 on pages 14 to 15, were: Nigeria, 3 180 (25,1%); Kenya, 2 149 (17,0%); Ghana, 1 610 (12,7%); Uganda, 1 204 (9,5%); Egypt, 951 (7,5%); Ethiopia, 640 (5,1%); Gabon, 492 (3,9%); Cameroon, 382 (3,0%); Côte d'Ivoire, 205 (1,6%) and Morocco, 171 (1,4%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 86,7% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in January 2019 and January 2020 shows that the number of tourists increased for four of the ten leading countries (Egypt, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Ethiopia) and decreased for the other six of the ten leading countries (Nigeria, Gabon, Cameroon, Morocco, Uganda and Kenya). Egypt showed the largest increase of 9,1% (from 872 tourists in January 2019 to 951 in January 2020), while Nigeria and Gabon showed the largest decrease of 27% (from 4 374 tourists in January 2019 to 3 180 in January 2020) and (from 674 tourists in January 2019 to 492 in January 2020) respectively.

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed in Table 4 on pages 16 to 19, in January 2020, the majority of tourists, 1 063 595 (97,3%), were in South Africa for holiday¹ compared to 17 893 (1,6%); 11 359 (1,0%) and 421 (less than 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, 153 591 (65,5%) who came for holiday, 2 940 (57,3%) who came for business, 1 226 (43,6%) who came for study and 51 (65,4%) who came for medical treatment.

Within the overseas regions, Central and South America had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for holiday, 98,3% (12 356), followed by Australasia, 98,2% (9 413), Europe, 97,3% (153 591), North America, 96,1% (30 371), the Middle East, 94,1% (4 925) and Asia, 92,7% (23 872).

Asia, 4,1% (1 056) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business, followed by the Middle East, 3,9% (206), North America, 2,2% (704), Europe, 1,9% (2 940), Australasia, 1,4% (132) and Central and South America, 0,7% (91).

Asia had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to study, 3,2% (822), followed by the Middle East, 2,0% (103), North America, 1,6% (508), Central and South America, 1,0% (120), Europe, 0,8% (1 226) and Australasia, 0,4% (36).

Asia 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, North America, Australasia and the Middle East came for medical treatment. Central and South America had no tourists coming to South Africa for medical treatment.

The majority of African tourists, 828 098 (97,5%) 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, 97,7% (817 827) were on holiday, compared to 81,1% (10 271) from 'other' African countries who came for the same purpose. Information on the regions of 'other' African countries shows that 84,4% (4 765) of tourists from West Africa were on holiday, followed by tourists from North Africa, 78,8% (1 327) and East and Central Africa 78,4% (4 179) 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 6,5% (823) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared to 1,4% (11 894) from SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 11,9% (201) of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes, followed by East and Central Africa, 7,0% (371) and West Africa, 4,4% (251).
- Students constituted 12,0% (1 515) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,8% (7 026) from SADC countries. East and Central Africa, 14,2% (756) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes, followed by West Africa, 10,7% (604) and North Africa, 9,2% (155).
- Medical treatment tourists constituted 0,4% (54) of tourists from 'other' African countries, while those from SADC constituted less than 0,1% (288) of its tourists. East and Central Africa, 0,5% (27) and West Africa, 0,5% (26) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by North Africa, 0,1% (1).

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 20 shows that in January 2020, there were 606 951 (55,5%) male and 486 317 (44,5%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 128 949 (53,2%) male tourists and 113 601 (46,8%) female tourists. There were 469 099 (56,0%) male and 367 936 (44,0%) female tourists from SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 8 252 (65,2%) male and 4 411 (34,8%) 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 [314 373 (28,8%)], followed closely by the age group 25 to 34 years [292 739 (26,8%)]. Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results show that the highest proportion of tourists from SADC countries [273 552 (32,7%)] and those from 'other' African countries [3 809 (30,1%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years, whereas those from overseas countries [48 912 (20,2%)] were aged 65 years and above. The second highest proportion of tourists from SADC countries [247 307 (29,5%)] and 'other' African countries [3 581 (28,3%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years, whereas those from overseas countries [44 797 (18,5%)] were aged between 45 and 54 years. The median ages of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African countries were 48, 36 and 36 years respectively. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was higher among tourists from 'other' African countries, 5,9% (747) and overseas countries, 5,6% (13 644) compared to those from SADC countries, 4,7% (39 403).

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 20,0% (25 842) of male and 20,3% (23 070) 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 3,5% of both male and female tourists. From SADC countries, elderly tourists made up 1,6% (7 441) and 2,3% (8 607) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 1,2% (154) and 3,1% (136) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

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

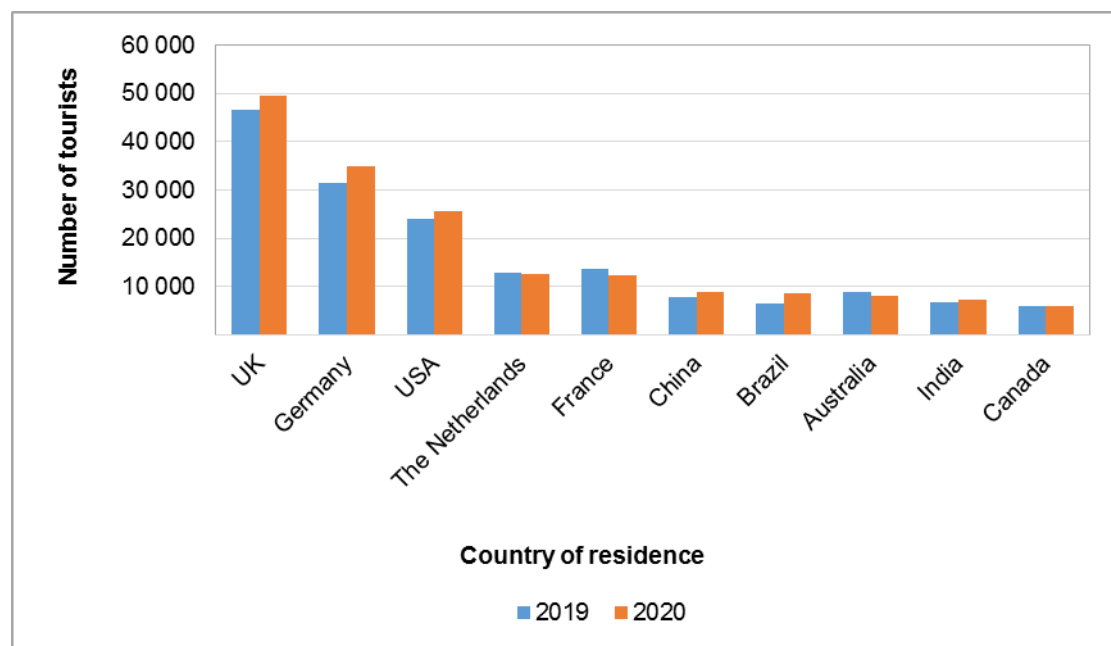


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in January 2019 and January 2020

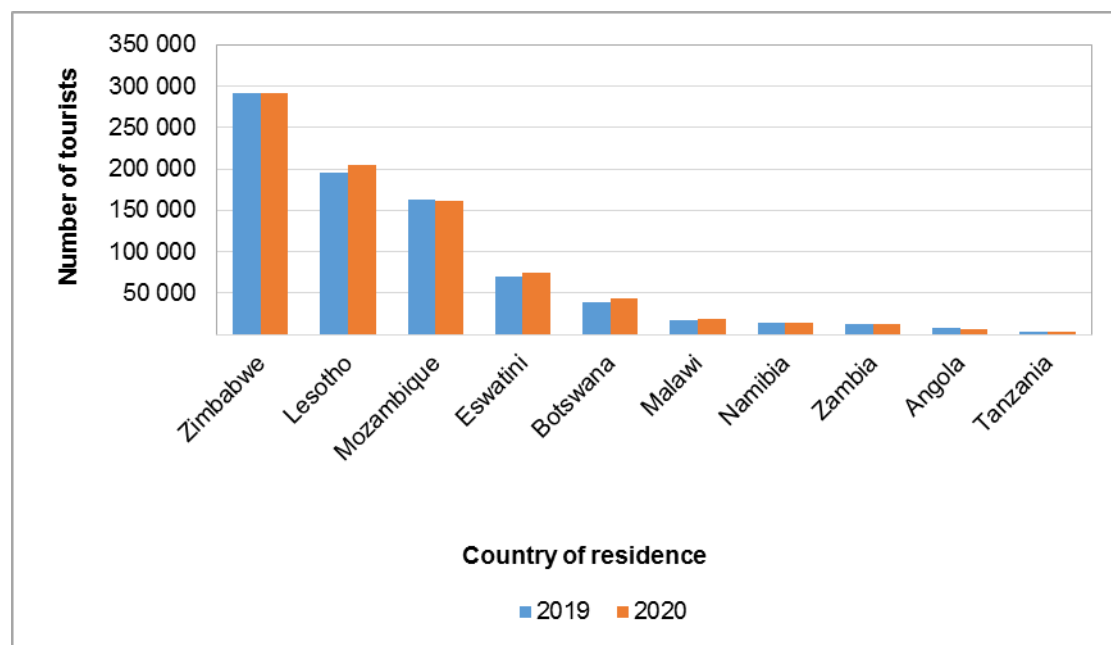
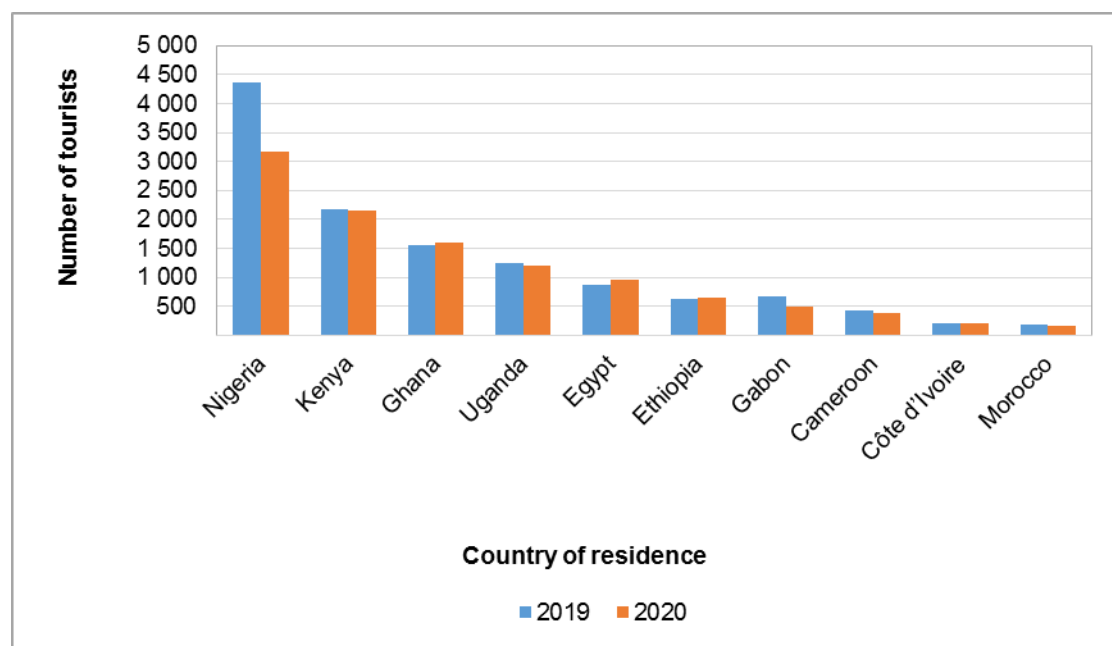


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in January 2019 and January 2020



3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	January 2019	December 2019	January 2020	% Change Dec 2019 – Jan 2020	% Change Jan 2019 – Jan 2020
Total	3 818 462	4 657 450	3 930 440	-15,6%	2,9%
South African residents	1 032 021	1 477 588	1 087 571	-26,4%	5,4%
Arrivals	626 128	638 708	656 050	2,7%	4,8%
Departures	405 062	838 048	430 762	-48,6%	6,3%
Transits	831	832	759	-8,8%	-8,7%
Foreign travellers	2 786 441	3 179 862	2 842 869	-10,6%	2,0%
Arrivals	1 561 510	1 559 368	1 595 388	2,3%	2,2%
Departures	1 169 796	1 561 121	1 193 534	-23,5%	2,0%
Transits	55 135	59 373	53 947	-9,1%	-2,2%
Foreign arrivals	1 561 510	1 559 368	1 595 388	2,3%	2,2%
Non-visitors	109 988	78 185	103 620	32,5%	-5,8%
Visitors	1 451 522	1 481 183	1 491 768	0,7%	2,8%
Visitors	1 451 522	1 481 183	1 491 768	0,7%	2,8%
Arrivals only	577 621	370 011	585 538	58,2%	1,4%
Single trips	412 844	548 924	431 900	-21,3%	4,6%
Multiple trips	461 057	562 248	474 330	-15,6%	2,9%
Visitors	1 451 522	1 481 183	1 491 768	0,7%	2,8%
Same-day	383 332	500 145	398 500	-20,3%	4,0%
Overnight (Tourists)	1 068 190	981 038	1 093 268	11,4%	2,3%

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	3 930 440	292 581	40 570	782 787	4 980	1 120 918	2 758 662	50 860
South African residents	1 087 571	72 667	28 429	317 147	2 827	421 070	637 973	28 528
Arrivals	656 050	43 368	17 100	191 862	1 502	253 832	387 906	14 312
Departures	430 762	29 296	11 329	124 529	1 325	166 479	250 067	14 216
Transit	759	3	-	756	-	759	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 842 869	219 914	12 141	465 640	2 153	699 848	2 120 689	22 332
Arrivals	1 595 388	106 997	5 264	196 953	904	310 118	1 272 997	12 273
Departures	1 193 534	112 678	6 877	214 980	1 248	335 783	847 692	10 059
Transit	53 947	239	-	53 707	1	53 947	-	-
Visitors	1 491 768	102 714	4 390	183 426	704	291 234	1 195 245	5 289
Same-day	398 500	1 529	32	17 049	80	18 690	378 448	1 362
Tourist	1 093 268	101 185	4 358	166 377	624	272 544	816 797	3 927

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

Country of residence	January		January 2020						
	2019	2020	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	1 068 190	1 093 268	101 185	4 358	166 377	624	272 544	816 797	3 927
Overseas	232 872	242 550	93 315	3 879	122 937	513	220 644	18 172	3 734
Europe	151 933	157 808	71 916	2 999	67 778	232	142 925	11 733	3 150
Austria	3 363	3 220	1 974	132	870	3	2 979	201	40
Belgium	3 687	3 799	1 636	31	1 730	1	3 398	395	6
Denmark	3 132	3 272	1 204	61	1 862	3	3 130	141	1
France	13 595	12 509	3 952	94	6 793	5	10 844	1 615	50
Germany	31 501	35 067	18 103	317	12 058	21	30 499	2 374	2 194
Ireland	3 022	3 132	1 581	89	1 303	7	2 980	129	23
Italy	4 617	4 693	1 716	38	2 432	12	4 198	489	6
Portugal	2 437	2 603	452	31	1 097	5	1 585	1 012	6
Russian Federation	1 893	2 524	1 295	65	936	33	2 329	180	15
Spain	2 325	2 267	674	23	1 314	12	2 023	240	4
Sweden	6 128	5 669	2 836	107	2 343	6	5 292	373	4
Switzerland	5 793	5 371	2 865	41	1 988	4	4 898	412	61
The Netherlands	12 888	12 776	6 413	48	4 825	7	11 293	1 457	26
UK	46 633	49 436	22 222	1 606	23 030	84	46 942	1 828	666
Other	10 919	11 470	4 993	316	5 197	29	10 535	887	48
North America	30 120	31 594	10 575	217	18 007	197	28 996	2 195	403
Canada	5 927	5 930	2 180	51	3 141	13	5 385	477	68
USA	24 193	25 664	8 395	166	14 866	184	23 611	1 718	335
Central and South America	11 961	12 567	1 049	16	10 797	14	11 876	649	42
Argentina	3 417	2 126	84	-	1 943	2	2 029	89	8
Brazil	6 523	8 540	687	7	7 378	8	8 080	438	22
Chile	632	532	26	-	487	1	514	15	3
Other	1 389	1 369	252	9	989	3	1 253	107	9

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

Country of residence	January		January 2020						
	2019	2020	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	9 867	9 584	1 324	177	7 244	52	8 797	719	68
Australia	8 980	8 142	1 074	142	6 222	52	7 490	591	61
New Zealand	872	1 431	248	35	1 014	-	1 297	127	7
Other	15	11	2	-	8	-	10	1	-
Middle East	3 562	5 234	1 856	44	3 134	5	5 039	193	2
Israel	2 189	2 215	389	4	1 700	5	2 098	115	2
Lebanon	216	257	87	10	144	-	241	16	-
Saudi Arabia	455	1 920	1 028	10	871	-	1 909	11	-
Other	702	842	352	20	419	-	791	51	-
Asia	25 429	25 763	6 595	426	15 977	13	23 011	2 683	69
Bangladesh	514	515	82	17	202	-	301	214	-
China	7 962	8 799	2 507	44	5 880	1	8 432	329	38
India	6 900	7 452	1 426	235	4 747	4	6 412	1 024	16
Japan	2 679	1 953	536	15	1 301	1	1 853	98	2
Malaysia	438	597	253	23	302	-	578	17	2
Pakistan	1 356	1 335	132	43	661	-	836	498	1
Philippines	441	472	104	8	301	1	414	51	7
Singapore	395	450	178	4	252	-	434	13	3
South Korea	3 046	2 078	839	19	1 018	6	1 882	196	-
Taiwan	568	624	164	5	373	-	542	82	-
Other	1 130	1 488	374	13	940	-	1 327	161	-
Africa	834 401	849 698	7 822	478	42 872	111	51 283	798 222	193
SADC	819 895	837 035	6 173	421	32 968	105	39 667	797 177	191
Angola	8 355	6 270	2 623	-	2 945	4	5 572	667	31
Botswana	39 709	44 122	274	114	2 024	30	2 442	41 677	3
DRC	2 588	2 702	162	4	2 035	3	2 204	498	-
Eswatini	69 643	74 370	2	5	436	-	443	73 925	2

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

Country of residence	January		January 2020						
	2019	2020	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Lesotho	195 516	204 791	11	8	459	-	478	204 301	12
Madagascar	192	235	18	-	198	1	217	18	-
Malawi	17 415	18 766	17	1	1 875	4	1 897	16 869	-
Mauritius	1 716	1 745	548	73	1 029	-	1 650	93	2
Mozambique	162 393	161 574	9	14	3 687	8	3 718	157 770	86
Namibia	14 483	14 545	1 637	75	1 960	12	3 684	10 841	20
Seychelles	515	404	3	5	376	-	384	20	-
Tanzania	3 021	3 273	177	1	1 560	-	1 738	1 535	-
Zambia	13 056	12 256	41	85	2 832	18	2 976	9 276	4
Zimbabwe	291 293	291 982	651	36	11 552	25	12 264	279 687	31
'Other' African	14 506	12 663	1 649	57	9 904	6	11 616	1 045	2
East and Central Africa	5 871	5 333	824	5	3 962	3	4 794	537	2
Burundi	71	75	12	-	59	-	71	4	-
Cameroon	437	382	54	1	289	1	345	36	1
Central African Republic	6	4	-	-	4	-	4	-	-
Chad	18	9	-	-	9	-	9	-	-
Comoros	16	16	-	-	15	1	16	-	-
Congo	220	159	66	-	85	-	151	8	-
Djibouti	9	4	2	-	2	-	4	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	37	37	1	-	36	-	37	-	-
Eritrea	83	29	2	1	22	-	25	4	-
Ethiopia	631	640	71	1	436	-	508	132	-
Gabon	674	492	60	-	432	-	492	-	-
Kenya	2 172	2 149	340	2	1 577	1	1 920	228	1
Réunion	8	17	17	-	-	-	17	-	-
Rwanda	67	69	8	-	54	-	62	7	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	4	6	1	-	4	-	5	1	-
Somalia	174	41	10	-	21	-	31	10	-
Uganda	1 244	1 204	180	-	917	-	1 097	107	-

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

Country of residence	January		January 2020						
	2019	2020	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	6 868	5 646	432	14	4 744	3	5 193	453	-
Benin	124	112	12	-	92	-	104	8	-
Burkina Faso	43	41	5	-	35	-	40	1	-
Cape Verde Island	26	24	5	-	11	-	16	8	-
Côte d'Ivoire	200	205	21	-	172	1	194	11	-
Gambia	27	55	2	-	44	-	46	9	-
Ghana	1 545	1 610	61	1	1 467	-	1 529	81	-
Guinea	115	96	14	-	51	-	65	31	-
Guinea-Bissau	10	9	-	-	6	-	6	3	-
Liberia	56	24	1	-	23	-	24	-	-
Mali	80	90	15	-	52	-	67	23	-
Mauritania	8	6	1	-	5	-	6	-	-
Niger	17	22	14	-	8	-	22	-	-
Nigeria	4 374	3 180	247	12	2 662	2	2 923	257	-
Saint Helena	7	12	10	-	2	-	12	-	-
Senegal	153	100	17	1	68	-	86	14	-
Sierra Leone	49	35	6	-	22	-	28	7	-
Togo	34	25	1	-	24	-	25	-	-
North Africa	1 767	1 684	393	38	1 198	-	1 629	55	-
Algeria	246	118	15	4	92	-	111	7	-
Egypt	872	951	193	10	727	-	930	21	-
Libya	116	67	30	3	14	-	47	20	-
Morocco	187	171	42	4	120	-	166	5	-
South Sudan	57	105	11	-	92	-	103	2	-
The Sudan	159	155	46	11	98	-	155	-	-
Tunisia	128	117	56	6	55	-	117	-	-
Western Sahara	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unspecified	917	1 020	48	1	568	-	617	403	-

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

Country of residence	January			Purpose of visit (January 2020)			
	2019	2020	% change 2019–2020	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Total	1 068 190	1 093 268	2,3%	17 893	1 063 595	11 359	421
Overseas	232 872	242 550	4,2%	5 129	234 528	2 815	78
Europe	151 933	157 808	3,9%	2 940	153 591	1 226	51
Austria	3 363	3 220	-4,3%	28	3 175	17	-
Belgium	3 687	3 799	3,0%	73	3 678	48	-
Denmark	3 132	3 272	4,5%	52	3 210	9	1
France	13 595	12 509	-8,0%	277	12 013	216	3
Germany	31 501	35 067	11,3%	422	34 301	343	1
Ireland	3 022	3 132	3,6%	69	3 043	15	5
Italy	4 617	4 693	1,6%	152	4 506	35	-
Portugal	2 437	2 603	6,8%	47	2 526	27	3
Russian Federation	1 893	2 524	33,3%	67	2 451	6	-
Spain	2 325	2 267	-2,5%	120	2 095	52	-
Sweden	6 128	5 669	-7,5%	89	5 547	33	-
Switzerland	5 793	5 371	-7,3%	58	5 268	45	-
The Netherlands	12 888	12 776	-0,9%	164	12 533	72	7
UK	46 633	49 436	6,0%	935	48 292	185	24
Other	10 919	11 470	5,0%	387	10 953	123	7
North America	30 120	31 594	4,9%	704	30 371	508	11
Canada	5 927	5 930	0,1%	136	5 734	57	3
USA	24 193	25 664	6,1%	568	24 637	451	8
Central and South America	11 961	12 567	5,1%	91	12 356	120	-
Argentina	3 417	2 126	-37,8%	7	2 115	4	-
Brazil	6 523	8 540	30,9%	40	8 434	66	-
Chile	632	532	-15,8%	3	525	4	-
Other	1 389	1 369	-1,4%	41	1 282	46	-

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

Country of residence	January			Purpose of visit (January 2020)			
	2019	2020	% change 2019–2020	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Australasia	9 867	9 584	-2,9%	132	9 413	36	3
Australia	8 980	8 142	-9,3%	114	7 991	34	3
New Zealand	872	1 431	64,1%	18	1 411	2	-
Other	15	11	-26,7%	-	11	-	-
Middle East	3 562	5 234	46,9%	206	4 925	103	-
Israel	2 189	2 215	1,2%	37	2 164	14	-
Lebanon	216	257	19,0%	58	193	6	-
Saudi Arabia	455	1 920	322,0%	29	1 870	21	-
Other	702	842	19,9%	82	698	62	-
Asia	25 429	25 763	1,3%	1 056	23 872	822	13
Bangladesh	514	515	0,2%	10	492	13	-
China	7 962	8 799	10,5%	221	8 428	149	1
India	6 900	7 452	8,0%	570	6 586	287	9
Japan	2 679	1 953	-27,1%	67	1 848	37	1
Malaysia	438	597	36,3%	8	545	44	-
Pakistan	1 356	1 335	-1,5%	39	1 236	60	-
Philippines	441	472	7,0%	25	428	18	1
Singapore	395	450	13,9%	16	428	6	-
South Korea	3 046	2 078	-31,8%	37	1 918	123	-
Taiwan	568	624	9,9%	15	585	24	-
Other	1 130	1 488	31,7%	48	1 378	61	1
Africa	834 401	849 698	1,8%	12 717	828 098	8 541	342
SADC	819 895	837 035	2,1%	11 894	817 827	7 026	288
Angola	8 355	6 270	-25,0%	52	5 719	465	34
Botswana	39 709	44 122	11,1%	387	43 064	559	112
DRC	2 588	2 702	4,4%	74	2 247	357	24
Eswatini	69 643	74 370	6,8%	363	73 574	428	5

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

Country of residence	December			Purpose of visit (January 2020)			
	2019	2020	% change 2019–2020	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Lesotho	195 516	204 791	4,7%	3 297	200 430	1 064	-
Madagascar	192	235	22,4%	4	207	24	-
Malawi	17 415	18 766	7,8%	122	18 427	205	12
Mauritius	1 716	1 745	1,7%	47	1 566	131	1
Mozambique	162 393	161 574	-0,5%	2 660	158 700	196	18
Namibia	14 483	14 545	0,4%	2 139	11 167	1 206	33
Seychelles	515	404	-21,6%	2	392	8	2
Tanzania	3 021	3 273	8,3%	52	2 972	246	3
Zambia	13 056	12 256	-6,1%	1 259	10 663	315	19
Zimbabwe	291 293	291 982	0,2%	1 436	288 699	1 822	25
'Other' African	14 506	12 663	-12,7%	823	10 271	1 515	54
East and Central Africa	5 871	5 333	-9,2%	371	4 179	756	27
Burundi	71	75	5,6%	3	55	16	1
Cameroon	437	382	-12,6%	14	292	71	5
Central African Republic	6	4	-33,3%	-	4	-	-
Chad	18	9	-50,0%	1	5	2	1
Comoros	16	16	0,0%	-	12	4	-
Congo	220	159	-27,7%	1	108	47	3
Djibouti	9	4	-55,6%	-	4	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	37	37	0,0%	1	31	5	-
Eritrea	83	29	-65,1%	-	26	3	-
Ethiopia	631	640	1,4%	26	568	39	7
Gabon	674	492	-27,0%	4	385	103	-
Kenya	2 172	2 149	-1,1%	251	1 616	277	5
Réunion	8	17	112,5%	-	17	-	-
Rwanda	67	69	3,0%	1	59	9	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	4	6	50,0%	-	6	-	-
Somalia	174	41	-76,4%	4	29	7	1
Uganda	1 244	1 204	-3,2%	65	962	173	4

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

Country of residence	January			Purpose of visit (January 2020)			
	2019	2020	% change 2019–2020	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
West Africa	6 868	5 646	-17,8%	251	4 765	604	26
Benin	124	112	-9,7%	5	99	8	-
Burkina Faso	43	41	-4,7%	2	29	10	-
Cape Verde Island	26	24	-7,7%	-	24	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	200	205	2,5%	26	159	19	1
Gambia	27	55	103,7%	2	50	3	-
Ghana	1 545	1 610	4,2%	78	1 432	97	3
Guinea	115	96	-16,5%	11	73	10	2
Guinea-Bissau	10	9	-10,0%	-	6	3	-
Liberia	56	24	-57,1%	4	17	3	-
Mali	80	90	12,5%	12	72	3	3
Mauritania	8	6	-25,0%	-	6	-	-
Niger	17	22	29,4%	7	12	3	-
Nigeria	4 374	3 180	-27,3%	85	2 650	429	16
Saint Helena	7	12	71,4%	-	12	-	-
Senegal	153	100	-34,6%	13	79	7	1
Sierra Leone	49	35	-28,6%	5	24	6	-
Togo	34	25	-26,5%	1	21	3	-
North Africa	1 767	1 684	-4,7%	201	1 327	155	1
Algeria	246	118	-52,0%	15	100	3	-
Egypt	872	951	9,1%	135	763	53	-
Libya	116	67	-42,2%	1	48	18	-
Morocco	187	171	-8,6%	18	140	13	-
South Sudan	57	105	84,2%	3	85	17	-
The Sudan	159	155	-2,5%	9	104	41	1
Tunisia	128	117	-8,6%	20	87	10	-
Western Sahara	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unspecified	917	1 020	11,2%	47	969	3	1

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

Sex	Age group	January		Region (January 2020)			
		2019	2020	Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	1 068 190	1 093 268	242 550	837 035	12 663	1 020
	0-14	54 693	53 799	13 644	39 403	747	5
	15-24	101 475	97 376	18 583	77 359	1 403	31
	25-34	297 054	292 739	41 690	247 307	3 581	161
	35-44	301 588	314 373	36 706	273 552	3 809	306
	45-54	162 349	175 362	38 218	134 722	2 094	328
	55-64	88 034	94 362	44 797	48 644	739	182
	65+	62 997	65 257	48 912	16 048	290	7
Male	Total	601 691	606 951	128 949	469 099	8 252	651
	0-14	27 292	27 111	7 135	19 573	402	1
	15-24	54 582	52 441	8 372	43 283	763	23
	25-34	162 940	158 440	20 757	135 323	2 251	109
	35-44	180 119	182 589	21 450	158 241	2 717	181
	45-54	96 749	102 317	21 911	78 700	1 490	216
	55-64	47 896	50 613	23 482	26 538	475	118
	65+	32 113	33 440	25 842	7 441	154	3
Female	Total	466 499	486 317	113 601	367 936	4 411	369
	0-14	27 401	26 688	6 509	19 830	345	4
	15-24	46 893	44 935	10 211	34 076	640	8
	25-34	134 114	134 299	20 933	111 984	1 330	52
	35-44	121 469	131 784	15 256	115 311	1 092	125
	45-54	65 600	73 045	16 307	56 022	604	112
	55-64	40 138	43 749	21 315	22 106	264	64
	65+	30 884	31 817	23 070	8 607	136	4

4. Annexures

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

Country of residence	January 2019	January 2020	Difference between January 2019 and January 2020	% change between January 2019 and January 2020
Total	1 068 190	1 093 268	25078	2,3%
Overseas	232 872	242 550	9678	4,2%
Europe	151 933	157 808	5875	3,9%
Austria	3 363	3 220	-143	-4,3%
Belgium	3 687	3 799	112	3,0%
Denmark	3 132	3 272	140	4,5%
France	13 595	12 509	-1086	-8,0%
Germany	31 501	35 067	3566	11,3%
Ireland	3 022	3 132	110	3,6%
Italy	4 617	4 693	76	1,6%
Portugal	2 437	2 603	166	6,8%
Russian Federation	1 893	2 524	631	33,3%
Spain	2 325	2 267	-58	-2,5%
Sweden	6 128	5 669	-459	-7,5%
Switzerland	5 793	5 371	-422	-7,3%
The Netherlands	12 888	12 776	-112	-0,9%
UK	46 633	49 436	2803	6,0%
Other	10 919	11 470	551	5,0%
North America	30 120	31 594	1474	4,9%
Canada	5 927	5 930	3	0,1%
USA	24 193	25 664	1471	6,1%
Central and South America	11 961	12 567	606	5,1%
Argentina	3 417	2 126	-1291	-37,8%
Brazil	6 523	8 540	2017	30,9%
Chile	632	532	-100	-15,8%
Other	1 389	1 369	-20	-1,4%

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

Country of residence	January 2019	January 2020	Difference between January 2019 and January 2020	% change between January 2019 and January 2020
Australasia	9 867	9 584	-283	-2,9%
Australia	8 980	8 142	-838	-9,3%
New Zealand	872	1 431	559	64,1%
Other	15	11	-4	-26,7%
Middle East	3 562	5 234	1 672	46,9%
Israel	2 189	2 215	26	1,2%
Lebanon	216	257	41	19,0%
Saudi Arabia	455	1 920	1 465	322,0%
Other	702	842	140	19,9%
Asia	25 429	25 763	334	1,3%
Bangladesh	514	515	1	0,2%
China	7 962	8 799	837	10,5%
India	6 900	7 452	552	8,0%
Japan	2 679	1 953	-726	-27,1%
Malaysia	438	597	159	36,3%
Pakistan	1 356	1 335	-21	-1,5%
Philippines	441	472	31	7,0%
Singapore	395	450	55	13,9%
South Korea	3 046	2 078	-968	-31,8%
Taiwan	568	624	56	9,9%
Other	1 130	1 488	358	31,7%
Africa	834 401	849 698	15 297	1,8%
SADC	819 895	837 035	17 140	2,1%
Angola	8 355	6 270	-2 085	-25,0%
Botswana	39 709	44 122	4 413	11,1%
DRC	2 588	2 702	114	4,4%
Eswatini	69 643	74 370	4 727	6,8%

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

Country of residence	January 2019	January 2020	Difference between January 2019 and January 2020	% change between January 2019 and January 2020
Lesotho	195 516	204 791	9275	4,7%
Madagascar	192	235	43	22,4%
Malawi	17 415	18 766	1351	7,8%
Mauritius	1 716	1 745	29	1,7%
Mozambique	162 393	161 574	-819	-0,5%
Namibia	14 483	14 545	62	0,4%
Seychelles	515	404	-111	-21,6%
Tanzania	3 021	3 273	252	8,3%
Zambia	13 056	12 256	-800	-6,1%
Zimbabwe	291 293	291 982	689	0,2%
'Other' African	14 506	12 663	-1843	-12,7%
East and Central Africa	5 871	5 333	-538	-9,2%
Burundi	71	75	4	5,6%
Cameroon	437	382	-55	-12,6%
Central African Republic	6	4	-2	-33,3%
Chad	18	9	-9	-50,0%
Comoros	16	16	0	0,0%
Congo	220	159	-61	-27,7%
Djibouti	9	4	-5	-55,6%
Equatorial Guinea	37	37	0	0,0%
Eritrea	83	29	-54	-65,1%
Ethiopia	631	640	9	1,4%
Gabon	674	492	-182	-27,0%
Kenya	2 172	2 149	-23	-1,1%
Réunion	8	17	9	112,5%
Rwanda	67	69	2	3,0%
São Tomé and Príncipe	4	6	2	50,0%
Somalia	174	41	-133	-76,4%
Uganda	1 244	1 204	-40	-3,2%

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

Country of residence	January 2019	January 2020	Difference between January 2019 and January 2020	% change between January 2019 and January 2020
West Africa	6 868	5 646	-1222	-17,8%
Benin	124	112	-12	-9,7%
Burkina Faso	43	41	-2	-4,7%
Cape Verde Island	26	24	-2	-7,7%
Côte d'Ivoire	200	205	5	2,5%
Gambia	27	55	28	103,7%
Ghana	1 545	1 610	65	4,2%
Guinea	115	96	-19	-16,5%
Guinea-Bissau	10	9	-1	-10,0%
Liberia	56	24	-32	-57,1%
Mali	80	90	10	12,5%
Mauritania	8	6	-2	-25,0%
Niger	17	22	5	29,4%
Nigeria	4 374	3 180	-1194	-27,3%
Saint Helena	7	12	5	71,4%
Senegal	153	100	-53	-34,6%
Sierra Leone	49	35	-14	-28,6%
Togo	34	25	-9	-26,5%
North Africa	1 767	1 684	-83	-4,7%
Algeria	246	118	-128	-52,0%
Egypt	872	951	79	9,1%
Libya	116	67	-49	-42,2%
Morocco	187	171	-16	-8,6%
South Sudan	57	105	48	84,2%
The Sudan	159	155	-4	-2,5%
Tunisia	128	117	-11	-8,6%
Western Sahara	2	-	-2	-100,0%
Unspecified	917	1 020	103	11,2%

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 January 2020, the DHA data was 2,6% 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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