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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 2021. Specific focus is on foreign tourists who entered the country during this month. The tourists are classified by region and country of residence. Details of their mode of travel; purpose of visit; age and sex distribution are also provided.

Risenga Maluleke Statistician-General

1. Key findings

1.1 Travellers

1.1.1 Number of travellers

The routine data collected by the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into and out of South Africa shows that a total of 520 510 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry/exit in January 2021. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 189 721 South African residents and 330 789 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 106 216 arrivals, 83 456 departures and 49 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 195 861, 130 208 and 4 720, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in January 2020 and January 2021 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 83,8% (from 656 050 in January 2020 to 106 216 in January 2021). Departures decreased by 80,6% (from 430 762 in January 2020 to 83 456 in January 2021) and transits decreased by 93,5% (from 759 in January 2020 to 49 in January 2021). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 87,7% (from 1 595 388 in January 2020 to 195 861 in January 2021), departures decreased by 89,1% (from 1 193 534 in January 2020 to 130 208 in January 2021) and transits decreased by 91,3% (from 53 947 in January 2020 to 4 720 in January 2021).

A comparison between the movements in December 2020 and January 2021 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and travellers in transit decreased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 29,8% (from 151 362 in December 2020 to 106 216 in January 2021), departures decreased by 54,2% (from 182 144 in December 2020 to 83 456 in January 2021) and transits decreased by 32,9% (from 73 in December 2020 to 49 in January 2021). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 29,9% (from 279 539 in December 2020 to 195 861 in January 2021), departures decreased by 58,8% (from 315 824 in December 2020 to 130 208 in January 2021), and transits decreased by 23,2% (from 6 143 in December 2020 to 4 720 in January 2021).

Detailed information on the departure of travellers is not available in the movement control system. Data on the purpose of travel and the number of days South African residents intend to spend or spent abroad are not collected by the DHA. It is therefore not possible to categorise South African residents as tourists or non-tourists. However, some data are available on foreign arrivals for this categorisation.

As presented in Table 1 on page 9, in January 2021, 45 870 (23,4%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 149 991 (76,6%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only comprising visitors who entered the country in January 2021 but did not depart in January 2021 [90 340 (60,2%)];
- ii. Single trips visitors who came to South Africa once in January 2021 and left in January 2021 [26 254 (17,5%)]; and
- iii. Multiple trips visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in January 2021 [33 397 (22,3%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In January 2021, there were 10 857 (7,2%) same-day visitors and 139 134 (92,8%) tourists. Between January 2020 and January 2021, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 97,3% (from 398 500 in January 2020 to 10 857 in January 2021) and that of tourists decreased by 87,3% (from 1 093 268 in January 2020 to 139 134 in January 2021).

1.1.2 Mode of travel of travellers

Information presented in Table 2 on page 10, shows that in January 2021, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 353 692 (68,0%) of the 520 510 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 163 317 (31,4%). Compared to the use of air and land transport, a smaller number of travellers, 3 501 (0,7%) used sea transport. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 33 650 (31,7%) came by air, 72 513 (68,3%) came by road and 53 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport. For departures, 44 288 (53,1%) used air, 38 883 (46,6%) used road and 285 (0,3%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 49 (100,0%) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 34 612 (17,7%) arrived by air, 159 833 (81,6%) came by road and 1 416 (0,7%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 45 998 (35,3%) foreign travellers left by air, 82 463 (63,3%) left by road and 1 747 (1,3%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 4 720 (100,0%) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that of the 10 857 same-day visitors, a majority, 8 733 (80,4%) arrived in the country by road, 2 123 (19,6%) flew into the country; and 1 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport. Information on tourists shows that 112 630 (81,0%) used road transport, 26 486 19,0%) came by air transport and 18 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport.

1.2 Tourists

1.2.1 Mode of travel

The country of residence of tourists is used to categorise them according to their respective countries and regions. Information on the specific region and country of residence of tourists and the mode of travel used to enter South Africa is provided in Table 3 on pages 11 to 14. In January 2021, 13 039 (95,3%) of the 13 687 overseas tourists arrived in the country by air transport, whilst 630 (4,6%) came in by road transport and 18 (0,1%) arrived by sea transport. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 111 834 (91,8%) and 9 930 (8,2%) came by air. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 3 360 (97,1%), with 101 (2,9%) using road transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In January 2021, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 8 682 (63,4%); North America, 2 152 (15,7%); Asia, 1 870 (13,7%); Central and South America, 401 (2,9%); The Middle East, 359 (2,6%); and Australasia, 223 (1,6%).

Figure 1 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 11 to 12, indicate that the ten leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in January 2021 were United States of America (USA), 1 844 (13,5%), United Kingdom (UK), 1 688 (12,3%); Germany, 1 557 (11,4%); France, 1 128 (8,2%); India, 710 (5,2%); The Netherlands, 620 (4,5%); Russian Federation, 612 (4,5%); Belgium, 380 (2,8%); Switzerland, 320 (2,3%); and China, 317 (2,3%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 67,0% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the ten leading countries between January 2020 and January 2021 shows that the number of tourists decreased for all ten leading countries. UK had the largest decrease of 96,6% (from 49 436 tourists in January 2020 to 1 688 tourists in January 2021).

Virtually, most tourists from Africa, 121 764 (97,2%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 1 621 (1,3%); East and Central Africa, 1 544 (1,2%); and North Africa 296 (0,2%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in January 2021 were: Zimbabwe, 40 579 (33,3%); Mozambique, 28 771 (23,6%); Lesotho, 27 628 (22,7%); Eswatini, 6 951 (5,7%); Namibia, 4 998 (4,1%); Botswana, 4 425 (3,6%); Zambia, 4 167 (3,4%); Malawi, 2 386 (2,0%); DRC, 794 (0,7%) and Tanzania, 722 (0,6%). (See Figure 2 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 12 to 13). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,7% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in January 2020 and January 2021 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists decreased for all ten leading countries. Eswatini showed the largest decrease of 90,7% (from 74 370 tourists in January 2020 to 6 951 in January 2021).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in January 2021 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8 and Table 3 on pages 13 to 14, were: Nigeria, 1 147 (33,1%); Kenya, 535 (15,5%); Uganda, 327 (9,4%); Ghana 322 (9,3%); Gabon, 196 (5,7%); Ethiopia, 188 (5,4%); Egypt, 160 (4,6%); Cameroon, 139 (4,0%); Congo, 72 (2,1%) and The Sudan, 48 (1,4%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 90,6% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in January 2020 and January 2021 shows that the number of tourists decreased for all ten leading countries. Egypt showed the largest decrease of 83,2% (from 951 tourists in January 2020 to 160 in January 2021).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed in Table 4 on pages 15 to 18, in January 2021, the majority of tourists, 118 758 (85,4%), were in South Africa for holiday¹ compared to 16 631 (12,0%); 3 313 (2,4%) and 432 (0,3%) who were in South Africa for business, study and for medical treatment respectively.

Compared to other overseas regions, Europe had the highest number of tourists, 8 089 who came for holiday, 287 who came for business and 294 who came for study, whereas, Asia had the highest number of tourists who came for medical treatment, 13 (0,7%).

Within the overseas regions, North America had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for holiday, 93,8% (2018), followed by Australasia, 93,3% (208), Europe, 93,2% (8089), Central and South America, 92,5% (371), the Middle East, 91,6% (329) and Asia, 90,6% (1694).

Asia, 3,9% (73) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business, followed by Europe, 3,3% (287), Australasia, 3,1% (7), North America, 2,6% (57), Central and South America, 1,5% (6) and the Middle East, 0,8% (3).

The Middle East, 7,5% (27) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to study, followed by Central and South America, 5,7% (23), Asia, 4,8% (90), North America, 3,5% (76), Europe, 3,4% (294) and Australasia, 3,1% (7).

Asia had 0,7% (13) of its tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by Australasia, 0,4% (1), Central and South America, 0,2% (1), Europe, 0,1% (12) and North America, less than 0,1% (1) and the Middle East had no tourists coming to South Africa for medical treatment.

The majority of African tourists, 105 833 (84,5%) 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 'other' African countries, 79,1% (2 736) were on holiday, compared to 84,7% (103 097) from SADC countries who came for the same purpose. Information on the regions of 'other' African countries shows that 83,3% (1 350) of tourists from West Africa were on holiday, followed by tourists from East and Central Africa, 75,7% (1 169) and North Africa 73,3% (217) respectively.
- Business persons constituted 13,2% (16 097) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 2,8% (97) from 'other' African countries. North Africa, 3,7% (11) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes, followed by East and Central Africa, 2,8% (43) and West Africa, 2,7% (43).
- Students constituted 17,2% (594) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 1,8% (2 200) from SADC countries. North Africa, 22,3% (66) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes, followed by East and Central Africa, 20,0% (309) and West Africa, 13,5% (219).
- Medical treatment tourists constituted 1,0% (34) of tourists from 'other' African countries, while those from SADC constituted 0,3% (370) of its tourists. East and Central Africa, 1,5% (23) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by North Africa, 0,7% (2) and West Africa, 0,6% (9).

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

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 19 shows that in January 2021, there were 99 265 (71,3%) male and 39 869 (28,7%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 8 144 (59,5%) male tourists and 5 543 (40,5%) female tourists. There were 88 763 (72,9%) male and 33 001 (27,1%) female tourists from SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 2 213 (63,9%) male and 1 248 (36,1%) 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 [50 000 (35,9%)]. Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results show that the highest proportion of tourists from 'other' African countries [1 024 (29,6%)] and those from overseas countries [3 272 (23,9%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years, whereas those from SADC countries [46 093 (37,9%)] were aged 35 and 44 years. The second highest proportion of tourists from 'other' African countries [988 (28,5%)] and overseas countries [2 850 (20,8%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years, whereas those from SADC countries [29 216 (24,0%)] were aged between 45 and 54 years. The median ages of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African countries were 37, 40 and 33 years respectively. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was higher among tourists from overseas countries, 8,8% (1 207) and those from 'other' African countries, 7,9% (273) compared to those from SADC countries, 2,5% (3 098).

A comparison of the three regions shows higher proportions of the elderly among both male and female tourists from overseas. Tourists aged 65 years and older comprised 6,7% (548) of male and 5,9% (329) 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 2,0% of both male and female tourists. From SADC countries, elderly tourists made up 1,0% (889) and 1,6% (540) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 1,2% (26) and 1,7% (21) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

Figure 1 - Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in January 2020 and January 2021

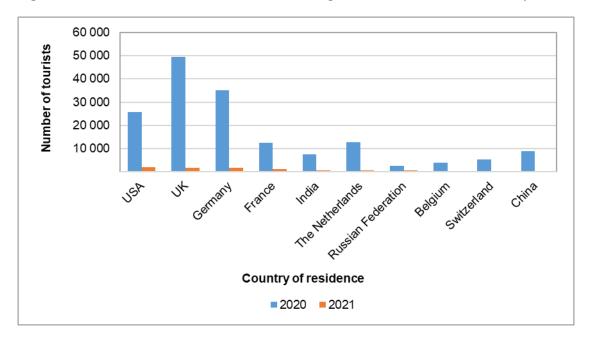


Figure 2 - Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in January 2020 and January 2021

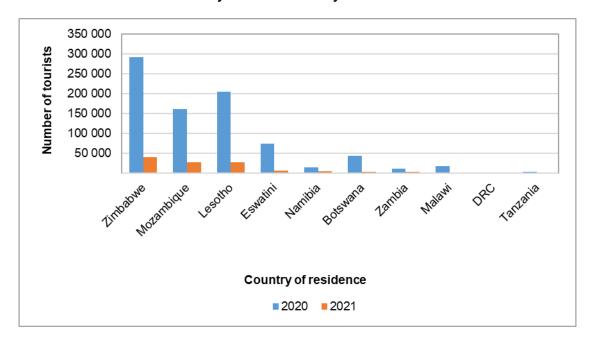
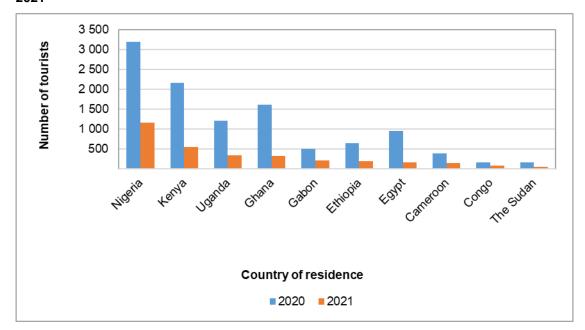


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in January 2020 and January 2021



3. Tables

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

Turnel Direction	January	December	January	% Change	% Change
Travel Direction	2020	2020	2021	Dec 2020 - Jan 2021	Jan 2020 – Jan 2021
Total	3 930 440	935 085	520 510	-44,3%	-86,8%
South African residents	1 087 571	333 579	189 721	-43,1%	-82,6%
Arrivals	656 050	151 362	106 216	-29,8%	-83,8%
Departures	430 762	182 144	83 456	-54,2%	-80,6%
Transits	759	73	49	-32,9%	-93,5%
Foreign travellers	2 842 869	601 506	330 789	-45,0%	-88,4%
Arrivals	1 595 388	279 539	195 861	-29,9%	-87,7%
Departures	1 193 534	315 824	130 208	-58,8%	-89,1%
Transits	53 947	6 143	4 720	-23,2%	-91,3%
Foreign arrivals	1 595 388	279 539	195 861	-29,9%	-87,7%
Non-visitors	103 620	39 102	45 870	17,3%	-55,7%
Visitors	1 491 768	240 437	149 991	-37,6%	-89,9%
Visitors	1 491 768	240 437	149 991	-37,6%	-89,9%
Arrivals only	585 538	86 968	90 340	3,9%	-84,6%
Single trips	431 900	73 761	26 254	-64,4%	-93,9%
Multiple trips	474 330	79 708	33 397	-58,1%	-93,0%
Visitors	1 491 768	240 437	149 991	-37,6%	-89,9%
Same-day	398 500	42 378	10 857	-74,4%	-97,3%
Overnight (Tourists)	1 093 268	198 059	139 134	-29,8%	-87,3%

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

				Air					
Travel direction	Total	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other Airports	Total	Road	Sea	
Total	520 510	34 882	4 163	123 768	504	163 317	353 692	3 501	
South African residents	189 721	14 536	2 757	60 284	410	77 987	111 396	338	
Arrivals	106 216	5 214	1 098	27 135	203	33 650	72 513	53	
Departures	83 456	9 322	1 659	33 100	207	44 288	38 883	285	
Transit	49	-	-	49	-	49	-		
Foreign travellers	330 789	20 346	1 406	63 484	94	85 330	242 296	3 163	
Arrivals	195 861	7 513	499	26 533	67	34 612	159 833	1 416	
Departures	130 208	12 819	907	32 245	27	45 998	82 463	1 747	
Transit	4 720	14	-	4 706	-	4 720	-	-	
Visitors	149 991	6 063	243	22 286	17	28 609	121 363	19	
Same day	10 857	125	11	1 985	2	2 123	8 733	1	
Tourist	139 134	5 938	232	20 301	15	26 486	112 630	18	

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

	Janu	arv				ry 2021			
Country of residence					Air			Road	Sea
	2020	2021	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total	Noud	- Oca
Total	1 093 268	139 134	5 938	232	20 301	15	26 486	112 630	18
Overseas	242 550	13 687	4 835	220	7 979	5	13 039	630	18
Europe	157 808	8 682	3 813	99	4 459	2	8 373	304	5
Austria	3 220	168	102	5	59	-	166	2	-
Belgium	3 799	380	185	4	176	-	365	15	_
France	12 509	1 128	343	2	755	-	1 100	27	1
Germany	35 067	1 557	984	13	505	-	1 502	55	-
Italy	4 693	299	117	1	168	-	286	13	-
Poland	1 595	161	74	2	79	-	155	6	-
Portugal	2 603	198	43	6	122	-	171	26	1
Russian Federation	2 524	612	375	1	221	-	597	13	2
Spain	2 267	248	74	-	163	-	237	11	-
Sweden	5 669	210	126	3	72	-	201	9	-
Switzerland	5 371	320	150	1	161	-	312	8	-
The Netherlands	12 776	620	284	1	323	-	608	12	-
Turkey	2 202	155	38	4	111	-	153	2	-
UK	49 436	1 688	526	43	1 038	2	1 609	79	-
Other	14 077	938	392	13	506	-	911	26	1
North America	31 594	2 152	627	29	1 408	_	2 064	88	-
Canada	5 930	308	67	5	220	-	292	16	-
USA	25 664	1 844	560	24	1 188	-	1 772	72	-
Central and South America	12 567	401	123	9	244	1	377	24	-
Argentina	2 126	24	14	-	10	-	24	-	-
Brazil	8 540	234	82	8	128	-	218	16	-
Cuba	92	45	2	-	43	-	45	-	-
Other	1 809	98	25	1	63	1	90	8	-

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

	Janua	arv		January 2021 Air						
Country of residence		_			Road	Sea				
	2020	2021	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total	7,044		
Australasia	9 584	223	31	4	175	_	210	13		
Australia	8 142	180	25	4	141	_	170	10		
New Zealand	1 431	38	6	-	30	-	36	2		
Other	11	5	-	-	4	-	4	1		
Middle East	5 234	359	83	3	255	_	341	18		
Israel	2 215	113	20	1	85	_	106	7		
Jordan	219	46	7	2	36	_	45	1		
Saudi Arabia	1 920	53	21	-	32	_	53	_		
Others	880	147	35	-	102	-	137	10	,	
Asia	25 763	1 870	158	76	1 438	2	1 674	183	13	
Bangladesh	515	49	10	2	31	_	43	6		
China	8 799	317	3	3	262	1	269	36	12	
India	7 452	710	53	10	582	-	645	65		
Indonesia	178	29	3	4	20	1	28	1		
Japan	1 953	100	18	10	70	-	98	1	1	
Pakistan	1 335	287	16	36	186	-	238	49		
Philippines	472	142	19	4	116	-	139	3		
South Korea	2 078	90	20	5	58	-	83	7		
Taiwan	624	23	1	-	19	-	20	3		
Thailand	420	44	6	-	37	-	43	1		
Other	1 937	79	9	2	57	-	68	11		
Africa	849 698	125 225	1 097	12	12 171	10	13 290	111 935		
SADC	837 035	121 764	728	9	9 183	10	9 930	111 834		
Angola	6 270	288	71	-	157	-	228	60		
Botswana	44 122	4 425	13	3	486	-	502	3 923		
DRC	2 702	794	85	-	643	3	731	63		
Eswatini	74 370	6 951	-	-	133	1	134	6 817		

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

	Janu	arv			Janua	ry 2021			
Country of residence	Janu	ai y			Air			Road	Sea
	2020	2021	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total	Noau	Jea
Lesotho	204 791	27 628	_	2	85	_	87	27 541	
Madagascar	235	30	_	2	29	_	29	27 541	
Malawi	18 766	2 386	7	_	553	1	561	1 825	
Mauritius	1 745	19	4	_	13		17	2	
Mozambique	161 574	28 771	2	1	672	_	675	28 096	
Namibia	14 545	4 998	285		398	_	683	4 315	
Seychelles	404	6	200	_	5	_	5	1	
Tanzania	3 273	722	52	1	516	_	569	153	
Zambia	12 256	4 167	11		707	1	719	3 448	
Zimbabwe	291 982	40 579	198	2	4 786	4	4 990	35 589	
Zimbabwe	231 302	40 01 0	100	2	4700		4 330	33 303	
'Other' African	12 663	3 461	369	3	2 988	-	3 360	101	
East and Central Africa	5 333	1 544	186	-	1 300	-	1 486	58	
Burundi	75	18	3	-	14	-	17	1	
Cameroon	382	139	13	-	123	-	136	3	
Central African Republic	4	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	
Chad	9	8	-	-	8	-	8	-	
Comoros	16	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	
Congo	159	72	25	-	46	-	71	1	
Djibouti	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Equatorial Guinea	37	8	-	-	8	-	8	-	
Eritrea	29	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	
Ethiopia	640	188	14	-	167	-	181	7	
Gabon	492	196	24	-	171	-	195	1	
Kenya	2 149	535	63	-	443	-	506	29	
Réunion	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Rwanda	69	28	4	-	24	-	28	-	
São Tomé and Príncipe	6	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	
Somalia	41	19	8	-	11	-	19	-	
Uganda	1 204	327	32	-	279	-	311	16	

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

	Janu	arv.			Janua	ry 2021				
Country of residence	Janu	ai y		Air						
	2020	2021	Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total	Road	Sea	
West Africa	5 646	1 621	160	1	1 429	_	1 590	31	_	
Benin	112	33	6	-	27	-	33	-	-	
Burkina Faso	41	8	1	-	7	-	8	-	-	
Cape Verde Island	24	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	
Côte d'Ivoire	205	29	-	-	27	-	27	2	-	
Gambia	55	5	-	-	5	-	5	-	-	
Ghana	1 610	322	26	-	291	-	317	5	-	
Guinea	96	16	1	-	13	-	14	2	-	
Guinea-Bissau	9	1	-	-		-		1	-	
Liberia	24	7	-	-	7	-	7	-	-	
Mali	90	9	-	-	7	-	7	2	-	
Mauritania	6	3	-	-	3	-	3	-	-	
Niger	22	8	-	-	8	-	8	-	-	
Nigeria	3 180	1 147	124	1	1 003	-	1 128	19	-	
Saint Helena	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Senegal	100	20	2	-	18	-	20	-	-	
Sierra Leone	35	11	-	-	11	-	11	-	-	
Togo	25	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	
North Africa	1 684	296	23	2	259	_	284	12	_	
Algeria	118	7	-	-	7	-	7	-	-	
Egypt	951	160	9	1	147	-	157	3	-	
Libya	67	26	8	1	10	-	19	7	-	
Morocco	171	24	1	-	22	-	23	1	-	
South Sudan	105	17	-	-	17	-	17	-	-	
The Sudan	155	48	5	-	42	-	47	1	-	
Tunisia	117	14	-	-	14	-	14	-	-	
Unspecified	1 020	222	6	-	151	-	157	65	-	

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

		January			Purpose of vis	it (January 20	21)
Country of residence	2020	2021	% change 2020–2021	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Total	1 093 268	139 134	-87,3%	16 631	118 758	3 313	432
Overseas	242 550	13 687	-94,4%	433	12 709	517	28
Europe	157 808	8 682	-94,5%	287	8 089	294	12
Austria	3 220	168	-94,8%	11	157	-	-
Belgium	3 799	380	-90,0%	12	343	25	-
France	12 509	1 128	-91,0%	33	1 044	51	-
Germany	35 067	1 557	-95,6%	40	1 474	42	1
Italy	4 693	299	-93,6%	15	259	25	-
Poland	1 595	161	-89,9%	7	154	-	-
Portugal	2 603	198	-92,4%	3	189	5	1
Russian Federation	2 524	612	-75,8%	5	606	1	-
Spain	2 267	248	-89,1%	16	230	2	-
Sweden	5 669	210	-96,3%	6	199	5	-
Switzerland	5 371	320	-94,0%	9	294	17	-
The Netherlands	12 776	620	-95,1%	29	579	12	-
Turkey	2 202	155	-93,0%	1	146	8	-
UK	49 436	1 688	-96,6%	56	1 556	69	7
Other	14 077	938	-93,3%	44	859	32	3
North America	31 594	2 152	-93,2%	57	2 018	76	1
Canada	5 930	308	-94,8%	9	296	3	-
USA	25 664	1 844	-92,8%	48	1 722	73	1
Central and South America	12 567	401	-96,8%	6	371	23	1
Argentina	2 126	24	-98,9%	-	23	1	-
Brazil	8 540	234	-97,3%	2	216	16	-
Cuba	92	45	-51,1%	-	43	2	-
Other	1 809	98	-94,6%	4	89	4	1

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

		January			Purpose of vis	it (January 20	21)
Country of residence	2020	2021	% change 2020–2021	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Australasia	9 584	223	-97,7%	7	208	7	1
Australia	8 142	180	-97,8%	5	167	7	1
New Zealand	1 431	38	-97,3%	1	37	-	-
Other	11	5	-54,5%	1	4	-	-
Middle East	5 234	359	-93,1%	3	329	27	-
Israel	2 215	113	-94,9%	1	105	7	-
Jordan	219	46	-79,0%	1	44	1	-
Saudi Arabia	1 920	53	-97,2%	-	47	6	-
Others	880	147	-83,3%	1	133	13	-
Asia	25 763	1 870	-92,7%	73	1 694	90	13
Bangladesh	515	49	-90,5%	-	45	2	2
China	8 799	317	-96,4%	14	297	2	4
India	7 452	710	-90,5%	40	635	35	-
Indonesia	178	29	-83,7%	-	27	1	1
Japan	1 953	100	-94,9%	5	90	5	-
Pakistan	1 335	287	-78,5%	1	266	15	5
Philippines	472	142	-69,9%	3	133	6	-
South Korea	2 078	90	-95,7%	3	72	14	1
Taiwan	624	23	-96,3%	-	23	-	-
Thailand	420	44	-89,5%	2	41	1	-
Other	1 937	79	-95,9%	5	65	9	-
Africa	849 698	125 225	-85,3%	16 194	105 833	2 794	404
SADC	837 035	121 764	-85,5%	16 097	103 097	2 200	370
Angola	6 270	288	-95,4%	4	198	84	2
Botswana	44 122	4 425	-90,0%	773	3 289	310	53
DRC	2 702	794	-70,6%	19	641	124	10
Eswatini	74 370	6 951	-90,7%	872	5 844	170	65

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

		January		Purpose of visit (January 2021)					
Country of residence	2020	2021	% change 2020–2021	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment		
Lesotho	204 791	27 628	-86,5%	1 454	25 737	292	145		
Madagascar	235	30	-87,2%	-	27	3	-		
Malawi	18 766	2 386	-87,3%	182	2 138	64	2		
Mauritius	1 745	19	-98,9%	-	18	1	-		
Mozambique	161 574	28 771	-82,2%	5 406	23 226	100	39		
Namibia	14 545	4 998	-65,6%	3 164	1 462	360	12		
Seychelles	404	6	-98,5%	-	6	-	-		
Tanzania	3 273	722	-77,9%	38	593	86	5		
Zambia	12 256	4 167	-66,0%	1 715	2 345	105	2		
Zimbabwe	291 982	40 579	-86,1%	2 470	37 573	501	35		
'Other' African	12 663	3 461	-72,7%	97	2 736	594	34		
East and Central Africa	5 333	1 544	-71,0%	43	1 169	309	23		
Burundi	75	18	-76,0%	-	15	3	-		
Cameroon	382	139	-63,6%	6	90	34	9		
Central African Republic	4	2	-50,0%	-	2	-	-		
Chad	9	8	-11,1%	-	5	3	-		
Comoros	16	1	-93,8%	-	1	-	-		
Congo	159	72	-54,7%	2	50	16	4		
Djibouti	4	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Equatorial Guinea	37	8	-78,4%	-	4	4	-		
Eritrea	29	2	-93,1%	-	2	-	-		
Ethiopia	640	188	-70,6%	6	162	15	5		
Gabon	492	196	-60,2%	1	138	57	-		
Kenya	2 149	535	-75,1%	21	391	118	5		
Réunion	17	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Rwanda	69	28	-59,4%	1	20	7	-		
São Tomé and Príncipe	6	1	-83,3%	-	1		-		
Somalia	41	19	-53,7%	-	17	2	-		
Uganda	1 204	327	-72,8%	6	271	50	-		

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

		January			Purpose of vis	it (January 20	21)
Country of residence	2020	2021	% change 2020–2021	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
West Africa	5 646	1 621	-71,3%	43	1 350	219	9
Benin	112	33	-70,5%	-	28	5	-
Burkina Faso	41	8	-80,5%	1	2	5	-
Cape Verde Island	24	1	-95,8%	-	1	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	205	29	-85,9%	1	21	7	-
Gambia	55	5	-90,9%	-	3	2	-
Ghana	1 610	322	-80,0%	5	295	22	-
Guinea	96	16	-83,3%	-	11	5	-
Guinea-Bissau	9	1	-88,9%	-	1	-	-
Liberia	24	7	-70,8%	-	7	-	-
Mali	90	9	-90,0%	-	8	1	-
Mauritania	6	3	-50,0%	1	2	-	-
Niger	22	8	-63,6%	-	8	-	-
Nigeria	3 180	1 147	-63,9%	34	938	166	9
Saint Helena	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
Senegal	100	20	-80,0%	1	16	3	-
Sierra Leone	35	11	-68,6%	-	8	3	-
Togo	25	1	-96,0%	-	1	-	-
North Africa	1 684	296	-82,4%	11	217	66	2
Algeria	118	7	-94,1%	6	1	-	-
Egypt	951	160	-83,2%	4	129	26	1
Libya	67	26	-61,2%	1	19	6	-
Morocco	171	24	-86,0%	-	15	9	-
South Sudan	105	17	-83,8%	-	12	4	1
The Sudan	155	48	-69,0%	-	36	12	-
Tunisia	117	14	-88,0%	-	5	9	-
Unspecified	1 020	222	-78,2%	4	216	2	-

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

0	A	Janua	nry		Region (J	anuary 2021)	
Sex	Age group	2020	2021	Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	1 093 268	139 134	13 687	121 764	3 461	222
	0-14	53 799	4 579	1 207	3 098	273	1
	15-24	97 376	8 402	1 599	6 222	575	6
	25-34	292 739	30 721	3 272	26 390	1 024	35
	35-44	314 373	50 000	2 850	46 093	988	69
	45-54	175 362	31 938	2 237	29 216	418	67
	55-64	94 362	11 138	1 645	9 316	136	41
	65+	65 257	2 356	877	1 429	47	3
Male	Total	606 951	99 265	8 144	88 763	2 213	145
	0-14	27 111	2 321	601	1 585	135	-
	15-24	52 441	4 654	852	3 477	321	4
	25-34	158 440	20 125	1 835	17 629	638	23
	35-44	182 589	37 312	1 787	34 760	724	41
	45-54	102 317	25 017	1 482	23 204	285	46
	55-64	50 613	8 371	1 039	7 219	84	29
	65+	33 440	1 465	548	889	26	2
Female	Total	486 317	39 869	5 543	33 001	1 248	77
	0-14	26 688	2 258	606	1 513	138	1
	15-24	44 935	3 748	747	2 745	254	2
	25-34	134 299	10 596	1 437	8 761	386	12
	35-44	131 784	12 688	1 063	11 333	264	28
	45-54	73 045	6 921	755	6 012	133	21
	55-64	43 749	2 767	606	2 097	52	12
	65+	31 817	891	329	540	21	1

4. Explanatory notes

NOTE TO USERS

In January 2014, Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), made changes in the *Tourism and Migration* statistical release. This change has become necessary as a result of the implementation of the enhanced Movement Control System (e-MCS) at the country's ports of entry. Currently, the new system (e-MCS) is operational at over 95% of the country's ports of entry. The change affects the identification of Transit Travellers that are currently categorised under Direction instead of Purpose of Movement. With this revision, Table 1 and Table 2 in the release now include a category for Transit while all tables reporting on tourists exclude transit travellers.

4.1 Introduction

Legal movements across South African borders, as well as legal immigration into South Africa, fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Home Affairs (DHA). Stats SA then processes, analyses and publishes this information.

Administrative data sources from the DHA, that is, information from all the country's ports of entry and applications for permanent residence, constitute the only comprehensive source of information on foreign arrivals and departures, documented immigrants and emigrants. The information from this source of data provides the best national coverage (both in terms of space and time) of the population movements of South African residents and foreign travellers. The data can be used for the following:

- To estimate, monitor and understand salient characteristics of foreign travellers and volumes of South African residents travelling outside South Africa.
- To provide information that can be used to (a) assess the extent of government's progress in strengthening bilateral political and economic relations by assessing the number of international tourist arrivals, and (b) benchmark surveys focusing on the demand for local tourism services by foreign travellers.

4.2 Purpose of the statistical release

This release reports on arrivals, departures and transit travellers of South African residents and foreign travellers. Detailed information on the age and sex distribution; mode of travel; national and regional distribution; and purpose of travel of overnight visitors or tourists are also provided.

4.3 Scope and coverage

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

4.4 Data

Information published in this release is based on data obtained from the following data sources within the DHA:

- Data routinely collected by immigration officers at all road, air and sea entry ports on all travellers (South African residents and foreign travellers) arriving into or departing from South Africa are captured into the DHA's population Movement Control System (MCS). The counts/statistics relate to the number of individual movements, rather than to the number of people. Hence, the multiple movements of individual people during the calendar month are each counted separately. Generally, the data are collected directly from travel documents either by scanning or capturing onto the ports' electronic database. No forms or cards are used (except on rare occasions when the capturing system is down) to collect information from travellers. Individual ports regularly transmit data onto the national database at the head office of the DHA.
- Stats SA receives downloaded data covering a particular calendar month from the DHA.

• As part of data interrogation, data from O.R. Tambo International Airport, which has the highest volume of travellers, are compared with passenger statistics from the Airports Company of South Africa (ACSA). As expected, in any specific month, an increase in the volume of passengers reported by ACSA is also reflected in an increase in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. A similar pattern has also been observed when the volume of travellers decreased. In January 2021, the DHA data was 3,5% higher than that of ACSA.

4.5 Limitations

4.5.1 Outbound tourists

The information on the total number of arrivals and departures of South African residents is collected from the scanning of passports. However, data on the country visited are not collected from passengers; country of final destination; intended duration of stay and purpose of visit. With this limitation, it is impossible to identify the number of tourists from the data on South African residents.

4.5.2 Purpose of visit

The holiday category includes tourists who came for vacation, visiting friends and relatives, shopping and other personal reasons such as attending weddings. While it's possible to separate 'visiting friends and relatives' from the broad category of Holiday, shopping and other reasons for visiting South Africa are all combined with vacation in the DHA movement control system. Discussions are in progress with the Department of Home Affairs to capture vacation and shopping as separate categories for a clearer breakdown of tourists by purpose of visit.

4.6 Definition of terms

4.6.1 Definitions used by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)

Traveller is someone who moves between different geographical locations for any purpose and any duration.

Visitor refers to any person travelling to a place other than that of his/her usual environment for less than 12 months and whose main purpose of the trip is other than the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited.

Same-Day visitor is a visitor who visits a place for less than one night.

Tourist (overnight visitor) is a visitor who stays at least one night in collective or private accommodation in the place visited.

Tourism comprises the activities of persons travelling to, and staying in places outside their usual environment, for not more than one consecutive year, for leisure, business and other purposes. The usual environment of a person consists of a certain area around his/her place of residence, plus all the other places he/she frequently visits.

4.6.2 Definitions used specifically in this release

South African resident refers to either a South African citizen or a non-South African citizen with a South African permanent residence permit.

Foreign traveller refers to a traveller who is not a South African citizen or permanent resident.

Region refers to the following country classification:

- Overseas: Europe, North America, Central and South America, Australasia, the Middle East and Asia.
- Africa: SADC and 'other' Africa (East and Central Africa, West Africa and North Africa).

Country refers to individual countries within a region. The country of residence is used. The country of residence should not be confused with the country from which the visitor travelled.

Africa refers to all the countries in Africa (both mainland and island countries).

SADC refers to the fourteen countries, excluding South Africa, which belong to the Southern African Development Community.

'Other' African refers to all non-SADC African countries.

Overseas refers to all countries outside Africa.

Trip refers to the arrival and departure of a visitor in a specified month.

4.7 Symbols used

- = nil
- < = less than

4.8 Rounding off

Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

5. General information

Stats SA publishes approximately 300 different statistical releases each year. It is not economically viable to produce them in more than one of South Africa's eleven official languages, since the releases are used extensively, not only locally but also by international economic and social-scientific communities. Stats SA releases are published in English.

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