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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 November 2019. 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 3 504 412 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry/exit in November 2019. As presented in Table 1 on page 10, these travellers were made up of 909 878 South African residents and 2 594 534 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 445 039 arrivals, 464 103 departures and 736 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 1 336 068, 1 193 490 and 64 976, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in November 2018 and November 2019 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures increased for South African residents but decreased for foreign travellers. Travellers in transit decreased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 1,9% (from 436 946 in November 2018 to 445 039 in November 2019). Departures increased by 2,0% (from 455 068 in November 2018 to 464 103 in November 2019), and transits decreased by 6,2% (from 785 in November 2018 to 736 in November 2019). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 0,4% (from 1 341 316 in November 2018 to 1 336 068 in November 2019), departures decreased by 0,6% (from 1 200 690 in November 2018 to 1 193 490 in November 2019), and transits decreased by 6,3% (from 69 342 in November 2018 to 64 976 in November 2019).

A comparison between the movements in October 2019 and November 2019 indicates that the volume of arrivals decreased for South African residents but increased for foreign travellers, whereas the volume of 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 decreased by 6,8% (from 477 340 in October 2019 to 445 039 in November 2019), departures increased by 3,2% (from 449 801 in October 2019 to 464 103 in November 2019), and transits decreased by 9,1% (from 810 in October 2019 to 736 in November 2019). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 3,0% (from 1 297 483 in October 2019 to 1 336 068 in November 2019), departures increased by 4,8% (from 1 139 310 in October 2019 to 1 193 490 in November 2019), and transits decreased by 8,4% (from 70 909 in October 2019 to 64 976 in November 2019).

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 November 2019, 83 037 (6,2%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 253 031 (93,8%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in November 2019 but did not depart in November 2019 [304 257 (24,3%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in November 2019 and left in November 2019 [475 021 (37,9%)]; and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in November 2019 [473 753 (37,8%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In November 2019, there were 402 494 (32,1%) same-day visitors and 850 537 (67,9%) tourists. Between November 2018 and November 2019, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 3,9% (from 387 374 in November 2018 to 402 494 in November 2019) and that of tourists decreased by 2,8% (from 875 172 in November 2018 to 850 537 in November 2019). Between October 2019 and November 2019, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 6,6% (from 377 483 in October 2019 to 402 494 in November 2019), and tourists increased by 1,9% (from 834 275 in October 2019 to 850 537 in November 2019).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Information presented in Table 2 on page 11, shows that in November 2019, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 432 566 (69,4%) of the 3 504 412 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 1 033 546 (29,5%). Compared to the use of air and land transport, a smaller number of travellers, 38 300 (1,1%) used sea transport. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 167 647 (37,7%) came by air, 268 433 (60,3%) came by road and 8 959 (2,0%) arrived by sea transport. For departures, 168 279 (36,3%) used air, 284 680 (61,3%) used road and 11 144 (2,4%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 736 (100,0%) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 306 319 (22,9%) arrived by air, 1 019 394 (76,3%) came by road and 10 355 (0,8%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 325 589 (27,3%) foreign travellers left by air, 860 059 (72,1%) left by road and 7 842 (0,7%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 64 976 (100,0%) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that of the 402 494 same-day visitors, an overwhelming majority, 382 263 (95,0%) arrived in the country by road, 19 609 (4,9%) flew into the country; and 622 (0,2%) arrived by sea transport. Information on tourists shows that 573 410 (67,4%) used road transport, 272 542 (32,0%) came by air transport and 4 585 (0,5%) arrived by sea transport.

1.2 Tourists

1.2.1 Mode of travel

The country of residence of tourists is used to categorise them according to their respective countries and regions. Information on the specific region and country of residence of tourists and the mode of travel used to enter South Africa is provided in Table 3 on pages 12 to 15. In November 2019, 218 284 (88,3%) of the 247 136 overseas tourists arrived in the country by air transport, whilst 24 485 (9,9%) came in by road transport and 4 367 (1,8%) arrived by sea transport. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 547 343 (93,2%), followed by air travel, 39 766 (6,8%) and sea transport, 215 (less than 0,1%). The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 13 116 (91,5%), with 1 212 (8,5%) using road transport and 3 (less than 0,1%) using sea transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In November 2019, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 164 704 (66,6%); North America, 33 420 (13,5%); Asia, 24 390 (9,9%); Australasia, 10 193 (4,1%); Central and South America, 10 004 (4,0%); and the Middle East, 4 425 (1,8%).

Figure 1 on page 8 and Table 3 on pages 12 to 13, indicate that the ten leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in November 2019 were Germany, 41 119 (16,6%), United Kingdom (UK), 41 064 (16,6%); United States of America (USA), 27 288 (11,0%); France, 16 673 (6,7%); The Netherlands, 14 417 (5,8%); Australia, 8 723 (3,5%); China, 8 416 (3,4%); Switzerland, 7 397 (3,0%); India, 7 247 (2,9%); and Brazil, 6 495 (2,6%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 72,4% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the ten leading countries between November 2018 and November 2019 shows that the number of tourists increased for three of the ten leading countries (Brazil, Australia and UK), and decreased for seven of the ten leading countries (India, France, China, The Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland and USA). Brazil had the largest increase of 8,6% (from 5 979 tourists in November 2018 to 6 495 tourists in November 2019). India, on the other hand, had the largest decrease of 22,2% (from 9 315 tourists in November 2018 to 7 247 tourists in November 2019).

Virtually, most tourists from Africa, 587 324 (97,6%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: East and Central Africa, 6 388 (1,1%); West Africa, 6 075 (1,0%); and North Africa 1 868 (0,3%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in November 2019 were: Zimbabwe, 172 672 (29,4%); Lesotho, 114 844 (19,6%); Mozambique, 110 399 (18,8%); Swaziland, 76 104 (13,0%); Botswana, 56 288 (9,6%); Malawi, 16 462 (2,8%); Namibia, 14 622 (2,5%); Zambia, 12 186 (2,1%); Angola, 4 622 (0,8%) and Tanzania, 3 322 (0,6%). (See Figure 2 on page 8 and Table 3 on pages 13 to 14). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,0% of all tourists from the SADC countries.

A comparison between movements in November 2018 and November 2019 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists increased for two of the ten leading countries (Swaziland and Mozambique), and decreased for eight of the ten leading countries (Zambia, Angola, Malawi, Namibia, Tanzania, Lesotho, Zimbabwe and Botswana). Swaziland showed the largest increase of 2,1% (from 74 540 tourists in November 2018 to 76 104 in November 2019), while Zambia showed the largest decrease of 10,6% (from 13 638 tourists in November 2018 to 12 186 in November 2019), followed closely by Angola which decreased by 10,3% (from 5 151 tourists in November 2018 to 4 622 in November 2019).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in November 2019 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 9 and Table 3 on pages 14 to 15, were: Nigeria, 2 903 (20,3%); Kenya, 2 794 (19,5%); Ghana, 1 581 (11,0%); Uganda, 1 325 (9,2%); Egypt, 854 (6,0%); Ethiopia, 647 (4,5%); Cameroon, 526 (3,7%); Gabon, 316 (2,2%); Morocco, 315 (2,2%) and Côte d'Ivoire, 288 (2,0%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 80,6% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in November 2018 and November 2019 shows that the number of tourists increased for five of the ten leading countries (Morocco, Cameroon, Uganda, Egypt and Côte d'Ivoire) and decreased for the other five of the ten leading countries (Nigeria, Gabon, Ghana, Ethiopia and Kenya). Morocco showed the largest increase of 44,5% (from 218 tourists in November 2018 to 315 in November 2019), while Nigeria showed the largest decrease of 45,8% (from 5 353 tourists in November 2018 to 2 903 in November 2019).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed in Table 4 on pages 16 to 19, in November 2019, the majority of tourists, 826 580 (97,2%), were in South Africa for holiday¹ compared to 20 611 (2,4%); 2 869 (0,3%) and 477 (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, 159 300 (66,9%) who came for holiday, 5 082 (60,2%) who came for business, 265 (48,8%) who came for study and 57 (67,9%) who came for medical treatment.

Within the overseas regions, Central and South America had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for holiday, 98,6% (9 860), followed by Australasia, 98,3% (10 019), North America, 96,9% (32 381), Europe, 96,7% (159 300), the Middle East, 92,8% (4 105), and Asia, 91,9% (22 407).

Asia, 7,4% (1 805) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business, followed by the Middle East, 6,0% (267), Europe, 3,1% (5 082), North America, 2,9% (980), Australasia, 1,7% (170), and Central and South America, 1,3% (133).

The Middle East had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to study, 1,2% (52), followed by Asia, 0,7% (165), Europe, 0,2% (265), North America, 0,1% (47), Central and South America, 0,1% (11), and Australasia, less than 0,1% (3).

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 North America, Europe, the Middle East and Australasia came for medical treatment, whilst Central and South America had no tourists who came for medical treatment.

The majority of African tourists, 586 951 (97,6%) 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, 97,9% (574 789) were on holiday, compared to 84,9% (12 162) from 'other' African countries who came for the same purpose. Information on the regions of 'other' African countries shows that 87,2% (5 296) of tourists from West Africa were on holiday, followed by tourists from East and Central Africa, 83,9% (5 357); and North Africa 80,8% (1 509) 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 12,1% (1 736) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared to 1,7% (10 252) from SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 16,1% (301) of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes, followed by East and Central Africa, 13,1% (840) and West Africa, 9,8% (595).
- Students constituted 2,7% (383) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,3% (1 942) from SADC countries. North Africa, 2,9% (55) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes, followed by West Africa, 2,8% (169) and East and Central Africa, 2,5% (159).
- Medical treatment tourists constituted 0,3% (50) of tourists from 'other' African countries, while those from SADC constituted 0,1% (341) of its tourists. East and Central Africa, 0,5% (32) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by West Africa, 0,2% (15) and North Africa, 0,2% (3).

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 20 shows that in November 2019, there were 470 385 (55,3%) male and 380 152 (44,7%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 133 055 (53,8%) male tourists and 114 081 (46,2%) female tourists. There were 326 946 (55,7%) male and 260 378 (44,3%) female tourists from SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 9 276 (64,7%) male and 5 055 (35,3%) female tourists.

The ages of the tourists were categorised into seven broad groups (see Table 5 for detailed classification). The results presented in Table 5 further show that the majority of tourists were aged between 35 and 44 years [231 167 (27,2%)], followed closely by the age group 25 to 34 years [230 893 (27,1%)]. Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results show that the highest proportion of tourists from SADC countries [185 858 (31,6%)] and those from 'other' African countries [4 857 (33,9%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years, whereas those from overseas countries [51 709 (20,9%)] were aged between 55 and 64 years. The second highest proportion of tourists from SADC countries [176 264 (30,0%)], 'other' African countries [3 827 (26,7%)] and overseas countries [50 571 (20,5%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years. The median ages of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African countries were 48, 36 and 39 years respectively. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was higher among tourists from SADC countries, 4,0% (23 449) compared to those from overseas countries, 2,9% (7 057) and to those from 'other' African countries, 2,5% (354).

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 16,9% (22 466) of male and 18,0% (20 585) of female tourists from overseas. This is in contrast to the pattern observed among tourists from the other two regions where tourists aged 65 years and older comprised less than 4,0% of both male and female tourists. From SADC countries, elderly tourists made up 2,2% (7 194) and 3,5% (9 102) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 2,5% (234) and 2,6% (131) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in November 2018 and November 2019

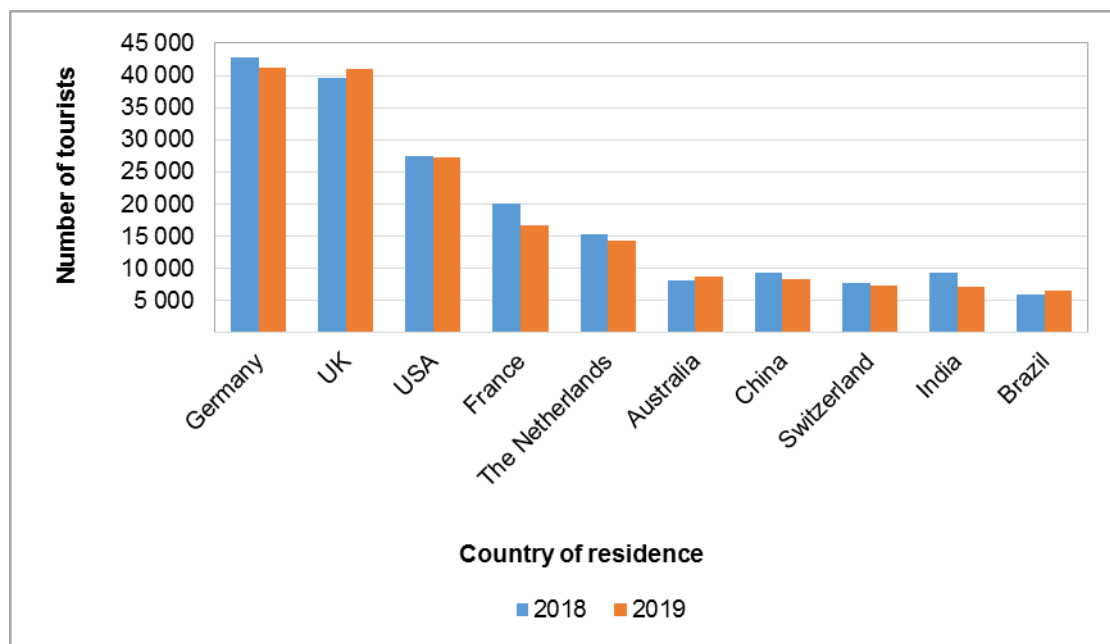


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in November 2018 and November 2019

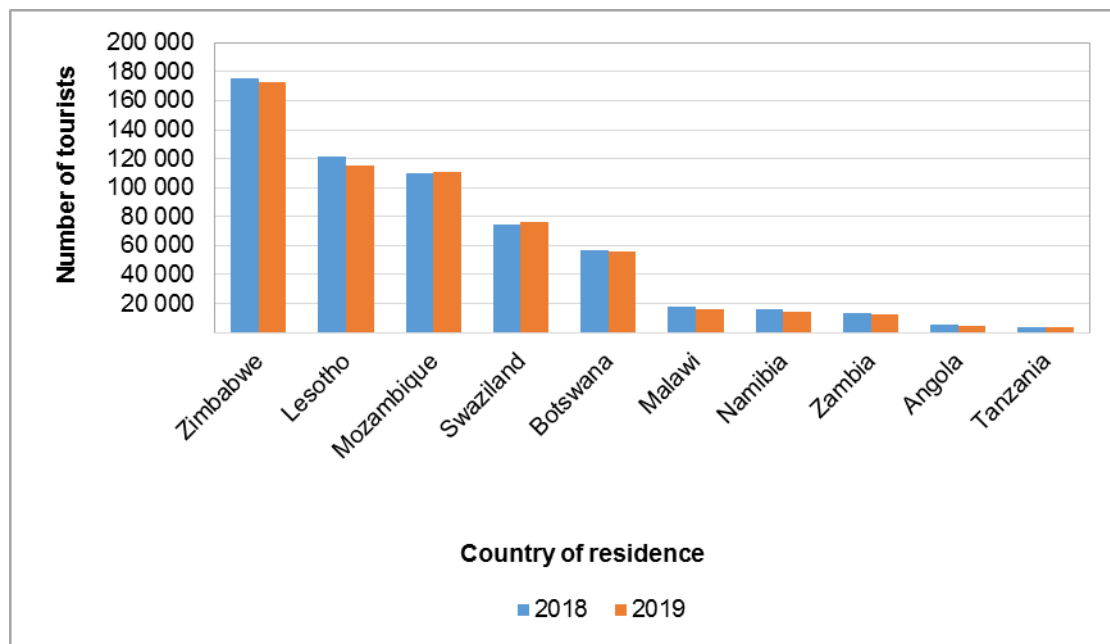
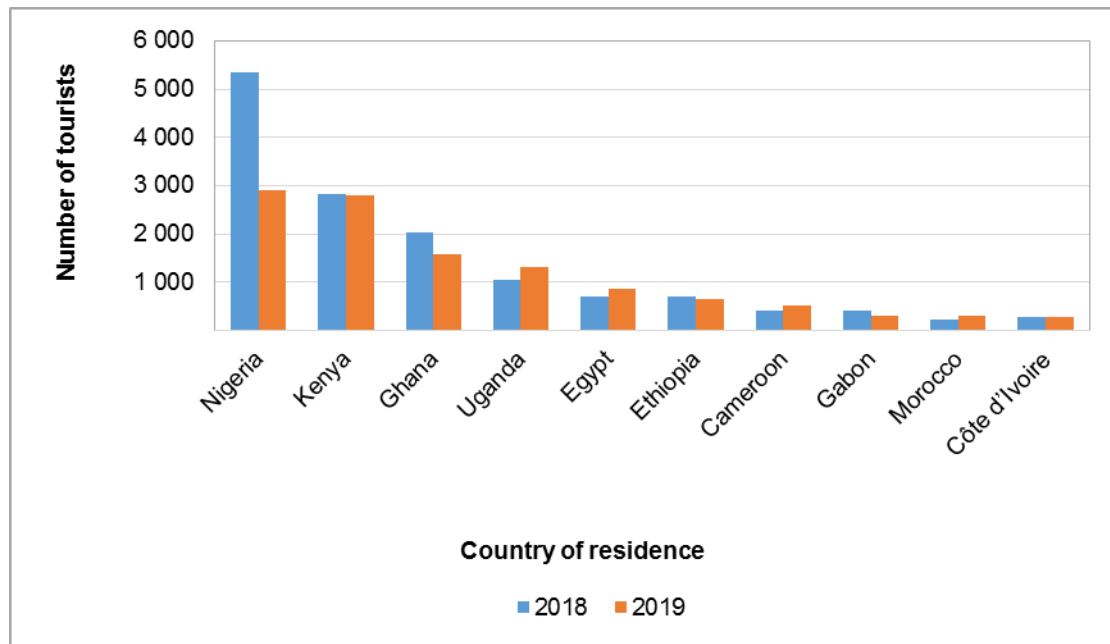


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in November 2018 and November 2019



3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	November 2018	October 2019	November 2019	% Change Oct 2019 – Nov 2019	% Change Nov 2018 – Nov 2019
Total	3 504 147	3 435 653	3 504 412	2,0%	0,0%
South African residents	892 799	927 951	909 878	-1,9%	1,9%
Arrivals	436 946	477 340	445 039	-6,8%	1,9%
Departures	455 068	449 801	464 103	3,2%	2,0%
Transits	785	810	736	-9,1%	-6,2%
Foreign travellers	2 611 348	2 507 702	2 594 534	3,5%	-0,6%
Arrivals	1 341 316	1 297 483	1 336 068	3,0%	-0,4%
Departures	1 200 690	1 139 310	1 193 490	4,8%	-0,6%
Transits	69 342	70 909	64 976	-8,4%	-6,3%
Foreign arrivals	1 341 316	1 297 483	1 336 068	3,0%	-0,4%
Non-visitors	78 770	85 725	83 037	-3,1%	5,4%
Visitors	1 262 546	1 211 758	1 253 031	3,4%	-0,8%
Visitors	1 262 546	1 211 758	1 253 031	3,4%	-0,8%
Arrivals only	307 132	308 512	304 257	-1,4%	-0,9%
Single trips	481 538	444 427	475 021	6,9%	-1,4%
Multiple trips	473 876	458 819	473 753	3,3%	-0,03%
Visitors	1 262 546	1 211 758	1 253 031	3,4%	-0,8%
Same-day	387 374	377 483	402 494	6,6%	3,9%
Overnight (Tourists)	875 172	834 275	850 537	1,9%	-2,8%

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

Travel direction	Total	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	O. R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	3 504 412	254 134	31 037	740 908	7 467	1 033 546	2 432 566	38 300
South African residents	909 878	56 093	18 769	257 364	4 436	336 662	553 113	20 103
Arrivals	445 039	28 695	8 797	127 932	2 223	167 647	268 433	8 959
Departures	464 103	27 396	9 972	128 698	2 213	168 279	284 680	11 144
Transit	736	2	-	734	-	736	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 594 534	198 041	12 268	483 544	3 031	696 884	1 879 453	18 197
Arrivals	1 336 068	96 512	5 512	202 919	1 376	306 319	1 019 394	10 355
Departures	1 193 490	101 362	6 756	215 816	1 655	325 589	860 059	7 842
Transit	64 976	167	-	64 809	-	64 976	-	-
Visitors	1 253 031	93 205	4 710	193 121	1 115	292 151	955 673	5 207
Same-day	402 494	889	51	18 498	171	19 609	382 263	622
Tourist	850 537	92 316	4 659	174 623	944	272 542	573 410	4 585

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, November 2019

Country of residence	November		November 2019						
	2018	2019	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	875 172	850 537	92 316	4 659	174 623	944	272 542	573 410	4 585
Overseas	256 537	247 136	84 408	3 974	129 143	759	218 284	24 485	4 367
Europe	171 540	164 704	65 315	2 811	75 044	271	143 441	17 870	3 393
Austria	3 859	3 950	2 122	51	1 333	3	3 509	387	54
Belgium	5 963	5 846	2 108	41	2 697	3	4 849	965	32
Denmark	2 473	2 380	618	31	1 535	2	2 186	190	4
France	20 063	16 673	5 219	204	8 159	23	13 605	3 028	40
Germany	42 851	41 119	18 163	255	17 103	33	35 554	4 523	1 042
Ireland	3 196	2 912	1 443	79	1 197	3	2 722	159	31
Italy	5 033	4 566	1 378	89	2 696	11	4 174	361	31
Norway	2 138	2 068	1 069	39	803	2	1 913	148	7
Portugal	2 968	2 949	613	32	1 256	13	1 914	1 022	13
Spain	3 578	3 426	875	102	2 014	8	2 999	395	32
Sweden	5 829	4 794	2 284	69	2 147	2	4 502	275	17
Switzerland	7 698	7 397	3 507	81	2 764	13	6 365	759	273
The Netherlands	15 247	14 417	5 547	97	6 130	7	11 781	2 562	74
UK	39 672	41 064	16 092	1 347	19 924	105	37 468	1 924	1 672
Other	10 972	11 143	4 277	294	5 286	43	9 900	1 172	71
North America	34 244	33 420	9 824	294	19 885	319	30 322	2 915	183
Canada	6 870	6 132	2 171	49	3 091	52	5 363	700	69
USA	27 374	27 288	7 653	245	16 794	267	24 959	2 215	114
Central and South America	9 555	10 004	795	36	8 451	77	9 359	578	67
Argentina	1 437	996	47	3	892	4	946	47	3
Brazil	5 979	6 495	379	15	5 616	60	6 070	372	53
Peru	148	517	34	1	450	4	489	28	-
Other	1 991	1 996	335	17	1 493	9	1 854	131	11

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, November 2019 (continued)

Country of residence	November		November 2019						
	2018	2019	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	9 137	10 193	1 500	180	7 241	54	8 975	545	673
Australia	8 143	8 723	1 254	148	6 181	50	7 633	463	627
New Zealand	966	1 452	246	32	1 044	4	1 326	80	46
Other	28	18	-	-	16	-	16	2	-
Middle East	4 096	4 425	1 113	61	3 048	9	4 231	189	5
Israel	2 566	2 465	501	1	1 815	5	2 322	138	5
Lebanon	336	252	86	7	148	-	241	11	-
Saudi Arabia	412	774	229	9	529	-	767	7	-
Other	782	934	297	44	556	4	901	33	-
Asia	27 965	24 390	5 861	592	15 474	29	21 956	2 388	46
Bangladesh	572	496	49	25	236	-	310	186	-
China	9 274	8 416	2 050	82	5 975	3	8 110	292	14
India	9 315	7 247	1 709	239	4 488	4	6 440	801	6
Japan	1 882	1 923	400	27	1 341	12	1 780	139	4
Malaysia	585	581	200	63	286	-	549	29	3
Pakistan	1 361	1 110	142	40	514	-	696	414	-
Philippines	562	582	174	20	284	3	481	90	11
Singapore	876	830	321	4	485	-	810	20	-
South Korea	1 359	1 314	347	42	752	5	1 146	166	2
Thailand	486	548	144	6	373	1	524	23	1
Other	1 693	1 343	325	44	740	1	1 110	228	5
Africa	617 076	601 655	7 805	672	44 222	183	52 882	548 555	218
SADC	600 507	587 324	5 654	514	33 443	155	39 766	547 343	215
Angola	5 151	4 622	1 682	-	2 486	11	4 179	440	3
Botswana	57 004	56 288	316	129	2 775	36	3 256	52 972	60
DRC	2 458	2 248	134	3	1 627	4	1 768	480	-
Lesotho	121 722	114 844	2	3	665	5	675	114 131	38

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, November 2019 (continued)

Country of residence	November		November 2019						
	2018	2019	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Madagascar	262	392	18	-	359	-	377	15	-
Malawi	17 911	16 462	32	6	2 081	-	2 119	14 342	1
Mauritius	2 277	2 496	768	141	1 486	2	2 397	97	2
Mozambique	109 669	110 399	11	3	3 033	6	3 053	107 338	8
Namibia	15 726	14 622	1 806	92	2 665	5	4 568	10 007	47
Seychelles	886	667	3	1	656	-	660	5	2
Swaziland	74 540	76 104	2	4	588	1	595	75 500	9
Tanzania	3 537	3 322	161	1	1 580	5	1 747	1 575	-
Zambia	13 638	12 186	31	98	2 903	23	3 055	9 129	2
Zimbabwe	175 726	172 672	688	33	10 539	57	11 317	161 312	43
'Other' African	16 569	14 331	2 151	158	10 779	28	13 116	1 212	3
East and Central Africa	6 209	6 388	1 184	12	4 646	16	5 858	530	-
Burundi	74	92	11	-	69	-	80	12	-
Cameroon	402	526	96	2	394	2	494	32	-
Central African Republic	26	23	-	-	22	-	22	1	-
Chad	32	36	6	-	30	-	36	-	-
Comoros	25	50	7	-	43	-	50	-	-
Congo	239	194	68	1	116	5	190	4	-
Djibouti	15	28	7	-	21	-	28	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	37	60	13	-	47	-	60	-	-
Eritrea	49	52	6	-	42	-	48	4	-
Ethiopia	706	647	96	2	477	-	575	72	-
Gabon	417	316	52	1	261	1	315	1	-
Kenya	2 815	2 794	559	3	2 016	-	2 578	216	-
Réunion	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Rwanda	163	156	20	-	112	6	138	18	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	15	11	3	-	8	-	11	-	-
Somalia	152	77	6	2	28	-	36	41	-
Uganda	1 041	1 325	234	1	960	1	1 196	129	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, November 2019 (concluded)

Country of residence	November		November 2019						
	2018	2019	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	8 834	6 075	585	52	4 835	10	5 482	591	2
Benin	147	205	26	-	168	-	194	11	-
Burkina Faso	81	103	11	3	89	-	103	-	-
Cape Verde Island	43	41	2	2	32	-	36	5	-
Côte d'Ivoire	287	288	46	6	223	-	275	13	-
Gambia	55	74	16	-	54	-	70	4	-
Ghana	2 035	1 581	124	12	1 365	2	1 503	78	-
Guinea	169	172	6	1	117	-	124	48	-
Guinea-Bissau	12	20	1	1	17	-	19	1	-
Liberia	68	86	13	-	71	-	84	2	-
Mali	117	114	17	-	63	-	80	34	-
Mauritania	29	43	5	3	34	-	42	1	-
Niger	44	26	4	-	21	-	25	1	-
Nigeria	5 353	2 903	233	11	2 282	7	2 533	368	2
Saint Helena	12	9	-	-	8	1	9	-	-
Senegal	240	279	64	13	186	-	263	16	-
Sierra Leone	87	86	15	-	63	-	78	8	-
Togo	55	45	2	-	42	-	44	1	-
North Africa	1 526	1 868	382	94	1 298	2	1 776	91	1
Algeria	123	130	21	-	89	-	110	20	-
Egypt	693	854	146	20	661	1	828	25	1
Libya	86	87	17	4	35	-	56	31	-
Morocco	218	315	72	60	180	-	312	3	-
South Sudan	73	104	12	1	86	1	100	4	-
The Sudan	224	196	55	4	130	-	189	7	-
Tunisia	108	179	59	5	114	-	178	1	-
Western Sahara	1	3	-	-	3	-	3	-	-
Unspecified	1 559	1 746	103	13	1 258	2	1 376	370	-

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

Country of residence	November			Purpose of visit (November 2019)			
	2018	2019	% change 2018–2019	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Total	875 172	850 537	-2,8%	20 611	826 580	2 869	477
Overseas	256 537	247 136	-3,7%	8 437	238 072	543	84
Europe	171 540	164 704	-4,0%	5 082	159 300	265	57
Austria	3 859	3 950	2,4%	65	3 882	3	-
Belgium	5 963	5 846	-2,0%	154	5 681	10	1
Denmark	2 473	2 380	-3,8%	58	2 317	4	1
France	20 063	16 673	-16,9%	540	16 095	38	-
Germany	42 851	41 119	-4,0%	613	40 436	68	2
Ireland	3 196	2 912	-8,9%	141	2 769	1	1
Italy	5 033	4 566	-9,3%	211	4 342	10	3
Norway	2 138	2 068	-3,3%	80	1 983	5	-
Portugal	2 968	2 949	-0,6%	87	2 857	3	2
Spain	3 578	3 426	-4,2%	168	3 250	8	-
Sweden	5 829	4 794	-17,8%	175	4 612	6	1
Switzerland	7 698	7 397	-3,9%	98	7 287	7	5
The Netherlands	15 247	14 417	-5,4%	372	14 011	23	11
UK	39 672	41 064	3,5%	1 656	39 326	54	28
Other	10 972	11 143	1,6%	664	10 452	25	2
North America	34 244	33 420	-2,4%	980	32 381	47	12
Canada	6 870	6 132	-10,7%	173	5 949	7	3
USA	27 374	27 288	-0,3%	807	26 432	40	9
Central and South America	9 555	10 004	4,7%	133	9 860	11	-
Argentina	1 437	996	-30,7%	17	979	-	-
Brazil	5 979	6 495	8,6%	44	6 446	5	-
Peru	148	517	249,3%	5	512	-	-
Other	1 991	1 996	0,3%	67	1 923	6	-

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

Country of residence	November			Purpose of visit (November 2019)			
	2018	2019	% change 2018–2019	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Australasia	9 137	10 193	11,6%	170	10 019	3	1
Australia	8 143	8 723	7,1%	143	8 577	3	-
New Zealand	966	1 452	50,3%	25	1 426	-	1
Other	28	18	-35,7%	2	16	-	-
Middle East	4 096	4 425	8,0%	267	4 105	52	1
Israel	2 566	2 465	-3,9%	98	2 367	-	-
Lebanon	336	252	-25,0%	51	199	1	1
Saudi Arabia	412	774	87,9%	22	744	8	-
Other	782	934	19,4%	96	795	43	-
Asia	27 965	24 390	-12,8%	1 805	22 407	165	13
Bangladesh	572	496	-13,3%	21	469	6	-
China	9 274	8 416	-9,3%	463	7 908	42	3
India	9 315	7 247	-22,2%	837	6 358	48	4
Japan	1 882	1 923	2,2%	105	1 812	6	-
Malaysia	585	581	-0,7%	33	546	2	-
Pakistan	1 361	1 110	-18,4%	60	1 033	17	-
Philippines	562	582	3,6%	37	539	3	3
Singapore	876	830	-5,3%	35	795	-	-
South Korea	1 359	1 314	-3,3%	66	1 240	7	1
Thailand	486	548	12,8%	16	522	10	-
Other	1 693	1 343	-20,7%	132	1 185	24	2
Africa	617 076	601 655	-2,5%	11 988	586 951	2 325	391
SADC	600 507	587 324	-2,2%	10 252	574 789	1 942	341
Angola	5 151	4 622	-10,3%	106	4 417	57	42
Botswana	57 004	56 288	-1,3%	454	55 483	198	153
DRC	2 458	2 248	-8,5%	121	1 995	99	33
Lesotho	121 722	114 844	-5,7%	1 214	112 833	796	1

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

Country of residence	November			Purpose of visit (November 2019)			
	2018	2019	% change 2018–2019	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Madagascar	262	392	49,6%	22	361	9	-
Malawi	17 911	16 462	-8,1%	179	16 232	43	8
Mauritius	2 277	2 496	9,6%	75	2 405	7	9
Mozambique	109 669	110 399	0,7%	2 655	107 670	58	16
Namibia	15 726	14 622	-7,0%	2 406	12 036	158	22
Seychelles	886	667	-24,7%	4	663	-	-
Swaziland	74 540	76 104	2,1%	171	75 755	175	3
Tanzania	3 537	3 322	-6,1%	99	3 193	22	8
Zambia	13 638	12 186	-10,6%	1 301	10 827	48	10
Zimbabwe	175 726	172 672	-1,7%	1 445	170 919	272	36
'Other' African	16 569	14 331	-13,5%	1 736	12 162	383	50
East and Central Africa	6 209	6 388	2,9%	840	5 357	159	32
Burundi	74	92	24,3%	12	75	3	2
Cameroon	402	526	30,8%	55	443	24	4
Central African Republic	26	23	-11,5%	1	21	1	-
Chad	32	36	12,5%	3	31	2	-
Comoros	25	50	100,0%	3	42	5	-
Congo	239	194	-18,8%	26	149	14	5
Djibouti	15	28	86,7%	7	21	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	37	60	62,2%	6	48	4	2
Eritrea	49	52	6,1%	2	47	3	-
Ethiopia	706	647	-8,4%	76	554	11	6
Gabon	417	316	-24,2%	17	284	13	2
Kenya	2 815	2 794	-0,7%	438	2 299	52	5
Réunion	1	1	0,0%	-	1	-	-
Rwanda	163	156	-4,3%	20	134	2	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	15	11	-26,7%	2	9	-	-
Somalia	152	77	-49,3%	17	59	1	-
Uganda	1 041	1 325	27,3%	155	1 140	24	6

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

Country of residence	November			Purpose of visit (November 2019)			
	2018	2019	% change 2018–2019	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
West Africa	8 834	6 075	-31,2%	595	5 296	169	15
Benin	147	205	39,5%	18	184	3	-
Burkina Faso	81	103	27,2%	15	86	2	-
Cape Verde Island	43	41	-4,7%	4	37	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	287	288	0,3%	55	231	2	-
Gambia	55	74	34,5%	13	55	5	1
Ghana	2 035	1 581	-22,3%	137	1 412	25	7
Guinea	169	172	1,8%	7	158	4	3
Guinea-Bissau	12	20	66,7%	2	18	-	-
Liberia	68	86	26,5%	10	75	1	-
Mali	117	114	-2,6%	21	92	-	1
Mauritania	29	43	48,3%	5	38	-	-
Niger	44	26	-40,9%	8	18	-	-
Nigeria	5 353	2 903	-45,8%	227	2 551	125	-
Saint Helena	12	9	-25,0%	-	7	-	2
Senegal	240	279	16,3%	53	226	-	-
Sierra Leone	87	86	-1,1%	15	69	2	-
Togo	55	45	-18,2%	5	39	-	1
North Africa	1 526	1 868	22,4%	301	1 509	55	3
Algeria	123	130	5,7%	19	109	2	-
Egypt	693	854	23,2%	118	712	24	-
Libya	86	87	1,2%	7	66	14	-
Morocco	218	315	44,5%	88	227	-	-
South Sudan	73	104	42,5%	17	81	3	3
The Sudan	224	196	-12,5%	27	160	9	-
Tunisia	108	179	65,7%	25	151	3	-
Western Sahara	1	3	200,0%	-	3	-	-
Unspecified	1 559	1 746	12,0%	186	1 557	1	2

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

Sex	Age group	November		Region (November 2019)			
		2018	2019	Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	875 172	850 537	247 136	587 324	14 331	1 746
	0-14	32 341	30 867	7 057	23 449	354	7
	15-24	72 471	67 771	11 160	55 877	706	28
	25-34	241 825	230 893	50 571	176 264	3 827	231
	35-44	233 941	231 167	39 913	185 858	4 857	539
	45-54	139 685	137 463	43 675	90 299	2 920	569
	55-64	94 579	92 642	51 709	39 281	1 302	350
	65+	60 330	59 734	43 051	16 296	365	22
Male	Total	483 988	470 385	133 055	326 946	9 276	1 108
	0-14	16 077	15 375	3 610	11 594	170	1
	15-24	37 094	34 423	4 938	29 095	367	23
	25-34	130 923	124 699	25 316	96 995	2 245	143
	35-44	140 869	138 649	24 584	110 415	3 333	317
	45-54	80 184	79 576	25 393	51 762	2 044	377
	55-64	48 556	47 753	26 748	19 891	883	231
	65+	30 285	29 910	22 466	7 194	234	16
Female	Total	391 184	380 152	114 081	260 378	5 055	638
	0-14	16 264	15 492	3 447	11 855	184	6
	15-24	35 377	33 348	6 222	26 782	339	5
	25-34	110 902	106 194	25 255	79 269	1 582	88
	35-44	93 072	92 518	15 329	75 443	1 524	222
	45-54	59 501	57 887	18 282	38 537	876	192
	55-64	46 023	44 889	24 961	19 390	419	119
	65+	30 045	29 824	20 585	9 102	131	6

4. Annexures

4.1 Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists' difference between Jan – Nov 2018 and Jan – Nov 2019 by country of residence

Country of residence	Jan – Nov 2018	Jan – Nov 2019	Difference between Jan – Nov 2018 and Jan – Nov 2019	% change between Jan – Nov 2018 and Jan – Nov 2019
Total	9 464 950	9 247 555	-217 395	-2,3%
Overseas	2 412 743	2 355 363	-57 380	-2,4%
Europe	1 451 523	1 393 117	-58 406	-4,0%
Austria	26 585	27 165	580	2,2%
Belgium	51 973	49 501	-2 472	-4,8%
Denmark	25 279	22 449	-2 830	-11,2%
France	172 561	152 820	-19 741	-11,4%
Germany	309 901	288 925	-20 976	-6,8%
Ireland	27 460	26 425	-1 035	-3,8%
Italy	57 468	58 374	906	1,6%
Norway	17 017	15 434	-1 583	-9,3%
Portugal	28 524	27 005	-1 519	-5,3%
Spain	38 750	38 931	181	0,5%
Sweden	39 773	34 536	-5 237	-13,2%
Switzerland	52 355	49 746	-2 609	-5,0%
The Netherlands	132 371	130 760	-1 611	-1,2%
UK	380 692	383 928	3 236	0,9%
Other	90 814	87 118	-3 696	-4,1%
North America	403 048	400 837	-2 211	-0,5%
Canada	60 717	60 038	-679	-1,1%
USA	342 331	340 799	-1 532	-0,4%
Central and South America	106 234	107 674	1 440	1,4%
Argentina	18 079	14 712	-3 367	-18,6%
Brazil	63 816	67 491	3 675	5,8%
Chile	6 242	5 569	-673	-10,8%
Other	18 097	19 902	1 805	10,0%

Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists' difference between Jan – Nov 2018 and Jan – Nov 2019 by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	Jan – Nov 2018	Jan – Nov 2019	Difference between Jan – Nov 2018 and Jan – Nov 2019	% change between Jan – Nov 2018 and Jan – Nov 2019
Australasia	117 466	113 911	-3 555	-3,0%
Australia	104 027	99 888	-4 139	-4,0%
New Zealand	13 200	13 773	573	4,3%
Other	239	250	11	4,6%
Middle East	46 355	51 710	5 355	11,6%
Israel	24 124	26 786	2 662	11,0%
Saudi Arabia	7 579	10 233	2 654	35,0%
United Arab Emirates	2 347	2 892	545	23,2%
Other	12 305	11 799	-506	-4,1%
Asia	288 117	288 114	-3	0,0%
China	91 230	87 206	-4 024	-4,4%
India	86 405	88 563	2 158	2,5%
Japan	25 544	26 070	526	2,1%
Malaysia	6 783	8 591	1 808	26,7%
Pakistan	13 786	12 688	-1 098	-8,0%
Philippines	6 673	7 081	408	6,1%
Singapore	7 952	8 761	809	10,2%
South Korea	20 154	18 348	-1 806	-9,0%
Taiwan	5 217	6 571	1 354	26,0%
Thailand	7 158	7 363	205	2,9%
Other	17 215	16 872	-343	-2,0%
Africa	7 039 854	6 877 898	-161 956	-2,3%
SADC	6 879 844	6 730 110	-149 734	-2,2%
Angola	58 068	56 782	-1 286	-2,2%
Botswana	598 399	580 941	-17 458	-2,9%
DRC	30 541	29 350	-1 191	-3,9%
Lesotho	1 606 663	1 430 315	-176 348	-11,0%

Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists' difference between Jan – Nov 2018 and Jan – Nov 2019 by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	Jan – Nov 2018	Jan – Nov 2019	Difference between Jan – Nov 2018 and Jan – Nov 2019	% change between Jan – Nov 2018 and Jan – Nov 2019
Madagascar	2 380	2 775	395	16,6%
Malawi	181 803	179 850	-1 953	-1,1%
Mauritius	17 766	19 883	2 117	11,9%
Mozambique	1 244 228	1 220 349	-23 879	-1,9%
Namibia	175 204	162 438	-12 766	-7,3%
Seychelles	5 343	4 876	-467	-8,7%
Swaziland	795 036	830 404	35 368	4,4%
Tanzania	32 764	34 340	1 576	4,8%
Zambia	149 881	137 249	-12 632	-8,4%
Zimbabwe	1 981 768	2 040 558	58 790	3,0%
'Other' African	160 010	147 788	-12 222	-7,6%
East and Central Africa	64 500	65 458	958	1,5%
Burundi	738	886	148	20,1%
Cameroon	4 647	4 717	70	1,5%
Central African Republic	161	156	-5	-3,1%
Chad	312	353	41	13,1%
Comoros	280	351	71	25,4%
Congo	2 473	2 236	-237	-9,6%
Djibouti	99	110	11	11,1%
Equatorial Guinea	338	450	112	33,1%
Eritrea	608	608		0,0%
Ethiopia	8 461	6 299	-2 162	-25,6%
Gabon	5 790	5 594	-196	-3,4%
Kenya	25 744	27 248	1 504	5,8%
Réunion	18	12	-6	-33,3%
Rwanda	999	1 094	95	9,5%
São Tomé and Príncipe	110	97	-13	-11,8%
Somalia	1 335	1 753	418	31,3%
Uganda	12 387	13 494	1 107	8,9%

Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists' difference between Jan – Nov 2018 and Jan – Nov 2019 by country of residence (concluded)

Country of residence	Jan – Nov 2018	Jan – Nov 2019	Difference between Jan – Nov 2018 and Jan – Nov 2019	% change between Jan – Nov 2018 and Jan – Nov 2019
West Africa	81 065	66 726	-14 339	-17,7%
Benin	1 389	1 698	309	22,2%
Burkina Faso	672	761	89	13,2%
Cape Verde Island	346	348	2	0,6%
Côte d'Ivoire	2 533	2 641	108	4,3%
Gambia	484	424	-60	-12,4%
Ghana	19 049	16 940	-2 109	-11,1%
Guinea	1 465	1 242	-223	-15,2%
Guinea-Bissau	138	130	-8	-5,8%
Liberia	614	690	76	12,4%
Mali	1 313	1 071	-242	-18,4%
Mauritania	201	227	26	12,9%
Niger	301	296	-5	-1,7%
Nigeria	49 039	36 739	-12 300	-25,1%
Saint Helena	129	89	-40	-31,0%
Senegal	2 223	2 074	-149	-6,7%
Sierra Leone	609	752	143	23,5%
Togo	560	604	44	7,9%
North Africa	14 445	15 604	1 159	8,0%
Algeria	976	1 422	446	45,7%
Egypt	7 075	7 544	469	6,6%
Libya	794	763	-31	-3,9%
Morocco	1 795	2 037	242	13,5%
South Sudan	751	893	142	18,9%
The Sudan	2 062	1 700	-362	-17,6%
Tunisia	970	1 230	260	26,8%
Western Sahara	22	15	-7	-31,8%
Unspecified	12 353	14 294	1 941	15,7%

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 November 2019, the DHA data was 2,9% 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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