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STATISTICAL RELEASE

P0351

Tourism and migration

November 2020

Embargoed until:
26 January 2021
10:00

ENQUIRIES:

User Information Services

Tel: (012) 310 8600

FORTHCOMING ISSUE:

December 2020

EXPECTED RELEASE DATE

23 February 2021



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

The South Africa I know, the home I understand



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Preface

This monthly statistical release provides information on South African residents and foreign travellers who entered or left South Africa in November 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 470 701 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry/exit in November 2020. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 178 632 South African residents and 292 069 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 91 418 arrivals, 87 179 departures and 35 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 152 694, 136 277 and 3 098, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in November 2019 and November 2020 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and travellers in transit decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 79,5% (from 445 039 in November 2019 to 91 418 in November 2020). Departures decreased by 81,2% (from 464 103 in November 2019 to 87 179 in November 2020) and transits decreased by 95,2% (from 736 in November 2019 to 35 in November 2020). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 88,6% (from 1 336 068 in November 2019 to 152 694 in November 2020), departures decreased by 88,6% (from 1 193 490 in November 2019 to 136 277 in November 2020) and transits decreased by 95,2% (from 64 976 in November 2019 to 3 098 in November 2020).

A comparison between the movements in October 2020 and November 2020 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and travellers in transit increased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 18,4% (from 77 240 in October 2020 to 91 418 in November 2020), departures increased by 8,9% (from 80 018 in October 2020 to 87 179 in November 2020) and transits increased by 169,2% (from 13 in October 2020 to 35 in November 2020). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 23,0% (from 124 165 in October 2020 to 152 694 in November 2020), departures increased by 14,6% (from 118 952 in October 2020 to 136 277 in November 2020), and transits increased by 276,0% (from 824 in October 2020 to 3 098 in November 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 9, in November 2020, 33 833 (22,2%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 118 861 (77,8%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in November 2020 but did not depart in November 2020 [41 871 (35,2%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in November 2020 and left in November 2020 [29 775 (25,1%)]; and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in November 2020 [47 215 (39,7%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In November 2020, there were 17 765 (14,9%) same-day visitors and 101 096 (85,1%) tourists. Between November 2019 and November 2020, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 95,6% (from 402 494 in November 2019 to 17 765 in November 2020) and that of tourists decreased by 88,1% (from 850 537 in November 2019 to 101 096 in November 2020).

1.1.2 Mode of travel of travellers

Information presented in Table 2 on page 10, shows that in November 2020, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 327 503 (69,6%) of the 470 701 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 139 237 (29,6%). Compared to the use of air and land transport, a smaller number of travellers, 3 961 (0,8%) used sea transport. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 36 583 (40,0%) came by air, 54 766 (59,9%) came by road and 69 (0,1%) arrived by sea transport. For departures, 31 105 (35,7%) used air, 55 900 (64,1%) used road and 174 (0,2%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 35 (100,0%) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 37 409 (24,5%) arrived by air, 113 517 (74,3%) came by road and 1 768 (1,2%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 31 007 (22,8%) foreign travellers left by air, 103 320 (75,8%) left by road and 1 950 (1,4%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 3 098 (100,0%) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that of the 17 765 same-day visitors, an overwhelming majority, 15 885 (89,4%) arrived in the country by road, 1 879 (10,6%) flew into the country; and 1 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport. Information on tourists shows that 71 812 (71,0%) used road transport, 29 277 (29,0%) came by air transport and 7 (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 November 2020, 14 574 (93,9%) of the 15 520 overseas tourists arrived in the country by air transport, whilst 939 (6,1%) came in by road transport and 7 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 70 653 (85,8%) and 11 737 (14,2%) came by air. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 2 790 (95,0%), with 147 (5,0%) using road transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In November 2020, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 10 005 (64,5%); Asia, 2 551 (16,4%); North America, 1 811 (11,7%); The Middle East, 539 (3,5%); Australasia, 318 (2,0%); and Central and South America, 296 (1,9%).

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 November 2020 were United Kingdom (UK), 2 833 (18,3%), Germany, 1 710 (11,0%); United States of America (USA), 1 458 (9,4%); France, 765 (4,9%); The Netherlands, 748 (4,8%); Switzerland, 597 (3,8%); India, 547 (3,5%); Bangladesh, 513 (3,3%); Pakistan, 386 (2,5%); and Canada, 353 (2,3%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 63,9% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the ten leading countries between November 2019 and November 2020 shows that the number of tourists decreased for nine of the ten leading countries. Germany had the largest decrease of 95,8% (from 41 119 tourists in November 2019 to 1 710 tourists in November 2020) and Bangladesh, on the other hand, increased by 3,3% (from 496 tourists in November 2019 to 513 in November 2020).

Virtually, most tourists from Africa, 82 390 (96,6%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: East and Central Africa, 1 315 (1,5%); West Africa, 1 287 (1,5%); and North Africa 335 (0,4%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in November 2020 were: Mozambique, 26 738 (32,5%); Zimbabwe, 23 095 (28,0%); Lesotho, 10 117 (12,3%); Eswatini, 5 547 (6,7%); Zambia, 4 977 (6,0%); Namibia, 4 662 (5,7%); Malawi, 3 038 (3,7%); Botswana, 1 851 (2,2%); Tanzania, 814 (1,0%) and DRC, 756 (0,9%). (See Figure 2 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 12 to 13). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,0% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in November 2019 and November 2020 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists decreased for all ten leading countries. Botswana showed the largest decrease of 96,7% (from 56 288 tourists in November 2019 to 1 851 in November 2020).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in November 2020 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8 and Table 3 on pages 13 to 14, were: Nigeria, 653 (22,2%); Ghana, 443 (15,1%); Kenya, 384 (13,1%); Ethiopia, 219 (7,5%); Egypt, 199 (6,8%); Gabon, 197 (6,7%); Uganda, 168 (5,7%); Cameroon, 105 (3,6%); Comoros, 75 (2,6%) and Congo, 70 (2,4%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 85,6% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in November 2019 and November 2020 shows that the number of tourists decreased for nine of the ten leading countries. Uganda showed the largest decrease of 87,3% (from 1 325 tourists in November 2019 to 168 in November 2020).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed in Table 4 on pages 15 to 18, in November 2020, the majority of tourists, 84 231 (83,3%), were in South Africa for holiday¹ compared to 14 810 (14,6%); 1 667 (1,6%) and 388 (0,4%) 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, 9 180 who came for holiday, 737 who came for business and 59 who came for study and 29 who came for medical treatment.

Within the overseas regions, Australasia had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for holiday, 94,0% (299), followed by North America, 93,8% (1 699), Europe, 91,8% (9 180), Asia, 91,7% (2 339), Central and South America, 88,5% (262) and the Middle East, 88,3% (476).

Central and South America, 9,5% (28) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business, followed by Europe, 7,4% (737), The Middle East, 5,9% (32), North America, 5,2% (94), Asia, 5,1% (129) and Australasia, 4,4% (14).

The Middle East, 5,8% (31) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to study, followed by Asia, 3,1% (79), Central and South America, 2,0% (6), Australasia, 1,3% (4), North America, 0,6% (11) and Europe, 0,6% (59).

North America had 0,4% (7) of their tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by Australasia, 0,3% (1), Europe, 0,3% (29) and Asia 0,2% (4). Central and America and the Middle East had no tourists coming to South Africa for medical treatment.

The majority of African tourists, 69 738 (81,7%) 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, 81,6% (67 198) were on holiday, compared to 86,5% (2 540) from 'other' African countries who came for the same purpose. Information on the regions of 'other' African countries shows that 88,7% (1 141) of tourists from West Africa were on holiday, followed by tourists from East and Central Africa, 86,1% (1 132) and North Africa 79,7% (267) respectively.
- Business persons constituted 16,5% (13 631) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 4,6% (135) from 'other' African countries. East and Central Africa, 5,1% (67) and North Africa, 5,1% (17) had the highest proportions of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes, followed by West Africa, 4,0% (51).
- Students constituted 7,7% (226) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 1,5% (1 251) from SADC countries. North Africa, 13,7% (46) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes, followed by East and Central Africa, 7,3% (96) and West Africa, 6,5% (84).
- Medical treatment tourists constituted 1,2% (36) of tourists from 'other' African countries, while those from SADC constituted 0,4% (310) of its tourists. East and Central Africa, 1,5% (20) and North Africa, 1,5% (5) had the highest proportions of its tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by West Africa, 0,9% (11).

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 November 2020, there were 75 085 (74,3%) male and 26 011 (25,7%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 10 021 (64,6%) male tourists and 5 499 (35,4%) female tourists. There were 63 020 (76,5%) male and 19 370 (23,5%) female tourists from SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 1 859 (63,3%) male and 1 078 (36,7%) 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 [36 160 (35,8%)]. Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results show that the highest proportion of tourists from 'other' African countries [926 (31,5%)] and those from overseas countries [3 569 (23,0%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years, whereas those from SADC countries [31 730 (38,5%)] were aged 35 and 44 years. The second highest proportion of tourists from 'other' African countries [862 (29,3%)] and overseas countries [3 490 (22,5%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years, whereas those from SADC countries [18 778 (22,8%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years. The median ages of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African countries were 40, 39 and 35 years respectively. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was higher among tourists from overseas countries, 6,4% (992) and those from 'other' African countries, 5,2% (154) compared to those from SADC countries, 2,6% (2 151).

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 6,9% (691) of male and 8,2% (451) 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 1,5% (963) and 3,6% (692) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 1,9% (35) and 2,5% (27) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

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

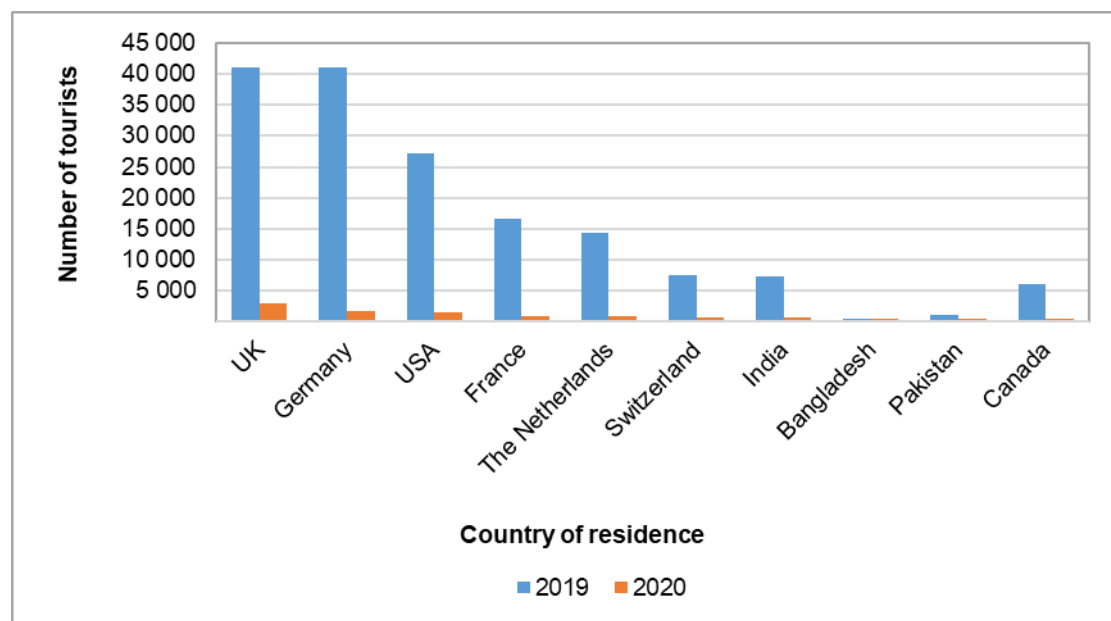


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in November 2019 and November 2020

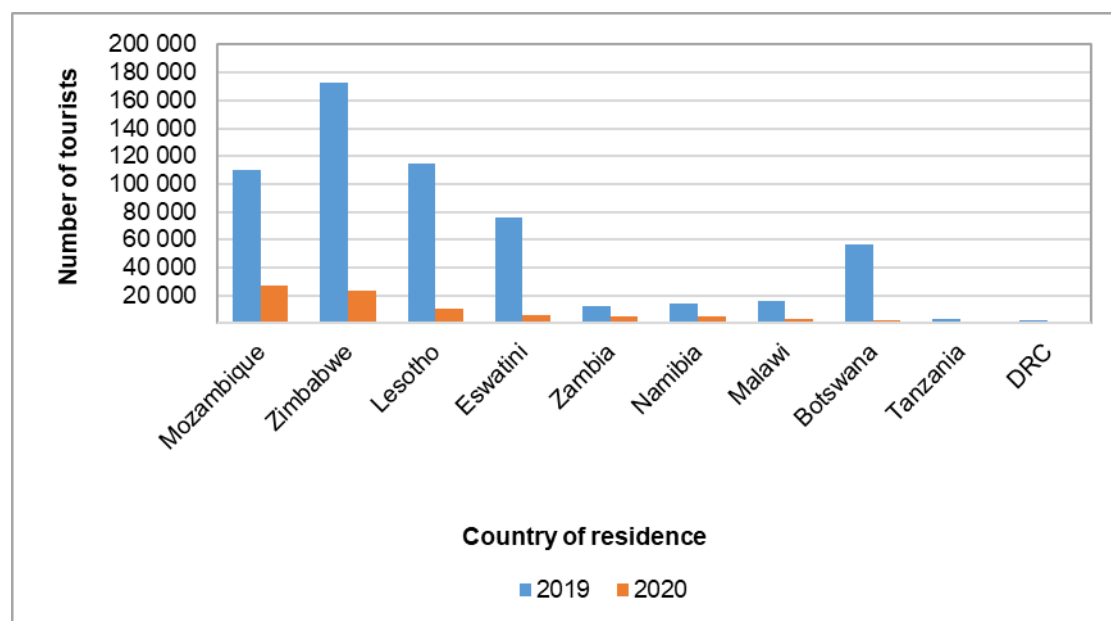
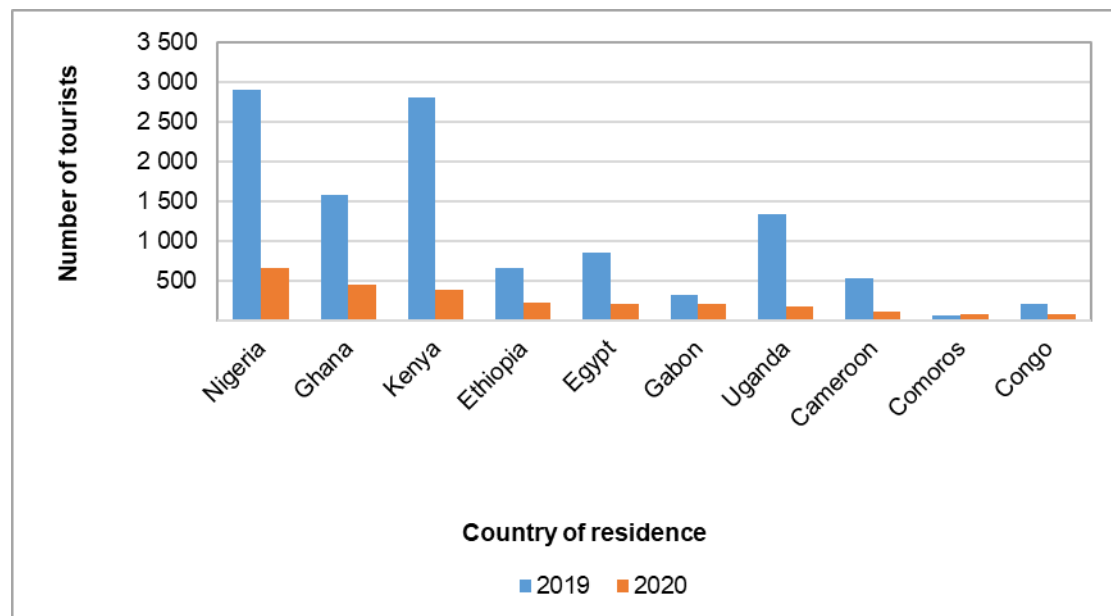


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in November 2019 and November 2020



3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	November 2019	October 2020	November 2020	% Change Oct 2020 – Nov 2020	% Change Nov 2019 – Nov 2020
Total	3 504 412	401 212	470 701	17,3%	-86,6%
South African residents	909 878	157 271	178 632	13,6%	-80,4%
Arrivals	445 039	77 240	91 418	18,4%	-79,5%
Departures	464 103	80 018	87 179	8,9%	-81,2%
Transits	736	13	35	169,2%	-95,2%
Foreign travellers	2 594 534	243 941	292 069	19,7%	-88,7%
Arrivals	1 336 068	124 165	152 694	23,0%	-88,6%
Departures	1 193 490	118 952	136 277	14,6%	-88,6%
Transits	64 976	824	3 098	276,0%	-95,2%
Foreign arrivals	1 336 068	124 165	152 694	23,0%	-88,6%
Non-visitors	83 037	37 387	33 833	-9,5%	-59,3%
Visitors	1 253 031	86 778	118 861	37,0%	-90,5%
Visitors	1 253 031	86 778	118 861	37,0%	-90,5%
Arrivals only	304 257	27 464	41 871	52,5%	-86,2%
Single trips	475 021	19 335	29 775	54,0%	-93,7%
Multiple trips	473 753	39 979	47 215	18,1%	-90,0%
Visitors	1 253 031	86 778	118 861	37,0%	-90,5%
Same-day	402 494	12 790	17 765	38,9%	-95,6%
Overnight (Tourists)	850 537	73 988	101 096	36,6%	-88,1%

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	470 701	23 860	4 636	110 466	275	139 237	327 503	3 961
South African residents	178 632	12 062	2 693	52 762	206	67 723	110 666	243
Arrivals	91 418	7 074	1 333	28 079	97	36 583	54 766	69
Departures	87 179	4 982	1 360	24 654	109	31 105	55 900	174
Transit	35	6	-	29	-	35	-	-
Foreign travellers	292 069	11 798	1 943	57 704	69	71 514	216 837	3 718
Arrivals	152 694	7 437	986	28 943	43	37 409	113 517	1 768
Departures	136 277	4 330	957	25 694	26	31 007	103 320	1 950
Transit	3 098	31	-	3 067	-	3 098	-	-
Visitors	118 861	5 647	291	25 212	6	31 156	87 697	8
Same day	17 765	47	1	1 831	-	1 879	15 885	1
Tourist	101 096	5 600	290	23 381	6	29 277	71 812	7

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

Country of residence	November		November 2020						
	2019	2020	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	850 537	101 096	5 600	290	23 381	6	29 277	71 812	7
Overseas	247 136	15 520	4 542	266	9 763	3	14 574	939	7
Europe	164 704	10 005	3 600	139	5 854	2	9 595	405	5
Austria	3 950	234	137	3	90	-	230	4	-
Belgium	5 846	341	139	3	187	-	329	12	-
France	16 673	765	276	10	451	-	737	26	2
Germany	41 119	1 710	959	24	686	-	1 669	40	1
Ireland	2 912	250	92	8	147	-	247	2	1
Italy	4 566	326	96	4	212	-	312	14	-
Portugal	2 949	321	36	2	161	-	199	122	-
Russian Federation	1 741	245	88	4	138	-	230	15	-
Spain	3 426	185	40	-	136	-	176	9	-
Sweden	4 794	243	112	3	124	-	239	4	-
Switzerland	7 397	597	288	10	294	1	593	4	-
The Netherlands	14 417	748	344	2	382	-	728	20	-
Turkey	1 429	228	41	2	168	-	211	17	-
UK	41 064	2 833	665	40	2 045	1	2 751	81	1
Other	12 421	979	287	24	633	-	944	35	-
North America	33 420	1 811	452	27	1 215	-	1 694	115	2
Canada	6 132	353	95	2	242	-	339	12	2
USA	27 288	1 458	357	25	973	-	1 355	103	-
Central and South America	10 004	296	57	7	182	1	247	49	-
Argentina	996	39	6	-	29	-	35	4	-
Brazil	6 495	148	36	6	80	1	123	25	-
Peru	517	16	-	-	7	-	7	9	-
Other	1 996	93	15	1	66	-	82	11	-
Total	850 537	101 096	5 600	290	23 381	6	29 277	71 812	7

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

Country of residence	November		November 2020						
	2019	2020	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	10 193	318	59	9	234	-	302	16	-
Australia	8 723	237	45	2	178	-	225	12	-
New Zealand	1 452	81	14	7	56	-	77	4	-
Other	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Middle East	4 425	539	180	6	343	-	529	10	-
Israel	2 465	218	42	-	174	-	216	2	-
Saudi Arabia	774	56	37	-	19	-	56	-	-
United Arab Emirates	199	77	50	2	23	-	75	2	-
Other	987	188	51	4	127	-	182	6	-
Asia	24 390	2 551	194	78	1 935	-	2 207	344	-
Bangladesh	496	513	51	31	405	-	487	26	-
China	8 416	353	7	-	234	-	241	112	-
India	7 247	547	39	9	419	-	467	80	-
Japan	1 923	86	6	6	74	-	86	-	-
Malaysia	581	28	5	1	18	-	24	4	-
Pakistan	1 110	386	34	26	265	-	325	61	-
Philippines	582	304	16	3	266	-	285	19	-
South Korea	1 314	69	11	-	56	-	67	2	-
Taiwan	371	40	2	-	16	-	18	22	-
Thailand	548	118	13	1	104	-	118	-	-
Other	1 802	107	10	1	78	-	89	18	-
Africa	601 655	85 327	1 045	24	13 455	3	14 527	70 800	-
SADC	587 324	82 390	758	14	10 962	3	11 737	70 653	-
Angola	4 622	686	120	-	526	-	646	40	-
Botswana	56 288	1 851	5	6	320	-	331	1 520	-
DRC	2 248	756	64	-	621	-	685	71	-
Eswatini	76 104	5 547	-	-	174	-	174	5 373	-

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

Country of residence	November		November 2020						
	2019	2020	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Lesotho	114 844	10 117	1	-	120	-	121	9 996	-
Madagascar	392	25	1	-	23	-	24	1	-
Malawi	16 462	3 038	1	-	953	-	954	2 084	-
Mauritius	2 496	56	3	-	43	-	46	10	-
Mozambique	110 399	26 738	6	-	518	-	524	26 214	-
Namibia	14 622	4 662	422	-	552	-	974	3 688	-
Seychelles	667	28	-	1	24	-	25	3	-
Tanzania	3 322	814	41	-	560	2	603	211	-
Zambia	12 186	4 977	61	2	1 159	-	1 222	3 755	-
Zimbabwe	172 672	23 095	33	5	5 369	1	5 408	17 687	-
'Other' African	14 331	2 937	287	10	2 493	-	2 790	147	-
East and Central Africa	6 388	1 315	131	1	1 135	-	1 267	48	-
Burundi	92	8	1	-	7	-	8	-	-
Cameroon	526	105	12	-	89	-	101	4	-
Central African Republic	23	3	-	-	3	-	3	-	-
Chad	36	11	3	-	8	-	11	-	-
Comoros	50	75	1	-	74	-	75	-	-
Congo	194	70	17	-	52	-	69	1	-
Djibouti	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	60	7	-	-	7	-	7	-	-
Eritrea	52	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Ethiopia	647	219	12	-	196	-	208	11	-
Gabon	316	197	24	-	172	-	196	1	-
Kenya	2 794	384	52	1	314	-	367	17	-
Réunion	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rwanda	156	25	-	-	21	-	21	4	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	11	27	-	-	27	-	27	-	-
Somalia	77	15	4	-	9	-	13	2	-

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

Country of residence	November		November 2020						
	2019	2020	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape Town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	6 075	1 287	124	1	1 077	-	1 202	85	-
Benin	205	57	-	-	50	-	50	7	-
Burkina Faso	103	8	-	-	8	-	8	-	-
Cape Verde Island	41	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	288	26	-	-	25	-	25	1	-
Gambia	74	4	-	-	4	-	4	-	-
Ghana	1 581	443	36	-	398	-	434	9	-
Guinea	172	27	1	-	17	-	18	9	-
Guinea-Bissau	20	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Liberia	86	6	3	-	3	-	6	-	-
Mali	114	17	1	-	7	-	8	9	-
Mauritania	43	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Niger	26	5	1	-	4	-	5	-	-
Nigeria	2 903	653	78	-	529	-	607	46	-
Saint Helena	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Senegal	279	23	1	1	20	-	22	1	-
Sierra Leone	86	7	2	-	3	-	5	2	-
Togo	45	8	1	-	7	-	8	-	-
North Africa	1 868	335	32	8	281	-	321	14	-
Algeria	130	17	-	-	17	-	17	-	-
Egypt	854	199	16	6	174	-	196	3	-
Libya	87	23	1	-	12	-	13	10	-
Morocco	315	8	2	-	6	-	8	-	-
South Sudan	104	14	1	-	13	-	14	-	-
The Sudan	196	54	11	-	42	-	53	1	-
Tunisia	179	20	1	2	17	-	20	-	-
Western Sahara	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unspecified	1 746	249	13	-	163	-	176	73	-

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

Country of residence	November			Purpose of visit (November 2020)			
	2019	2020	% change 2019–2020	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Total	850 537	101 096	-88,1%	14 810	84 231	1 667	388
Overseas	247 136	15 520	-93,7%	1 034	14 255	190	41
Europe	164 704	10 005	-93,9%	737	9 180	59	29
Austria	3 950	234	-94,1%	11	221	-	2
Belgium	5 846	341	-94,2%	33	304	4	-
France	16 673	765	-95,4%	95	663	7	-
Germany	41 119	1 710	-95,8%	120	1 575	12	3
Ireland	2 912	250	-91,4%	17	231	-	2
Italy	4 566	326	-92,9%	48	271	7	-
Portugal	2 949	321	-89,1%	10	310	1	-
Russian Federation	1 741	245	-85,9%	16	226	3	-
Spain	3 426	185	-94,6%	21	164	-	-
Sweden	4 794	243	-94,9%	12	230	1	-
Switzerland	7 397	597	-91,9%	23	570	3	1
The Netherlands	14 417	748	-94,8%	62	678	5	3
Turkey	1 429	228	-84,0%	10	215	2	1
UK	41 064	2 833	-93,1%	193	2 614	9	17
Other	12 421	979	-92,1%	66	908	5	-
North America	33 420	1 811	-94,6%	94	1 699	11	7
Canada	6 132	353	-94,2%	9	342	1	1
USA	27 288	1 458	-94,7%	85	1 357	10	6
Central and South America	10 004	296	-97,0%	28	262	6	-
Argentina	996	39	-96,1%	3	36	-	-
Brazil	6 495	148	-97,7%	18	127	3	-
Peru	517	16	-96,9%	1	15	-	-
Other	1 996	93	-95,3%	6	84	3	-

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

Country of residence	November			Purpose of visit (November 2020)			
	2019	2020	% change 2019–2020	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Australasia	10 193	318	-96,9%	14	299	4	1
Australia	8 723	237	-97,3%	9	224	3	1
New Zealand	1 452	81	-94,4%	5	75	1	-
Other	18	-	-	-	-	-	-
Middle East	4 425	539	-87,8%	32	476	31	-
Israel	2 465	218	-91,2%	15	203	-	-
Saudi Arabia	774	56	-92,8%	1	40	15	-
United Arab Emirates	199	77	-61,3%	5	72	-	-
Other	987	188	-81,0%	11	161	16	-
Asia	24 390	2 551	-89,5%	129	2 339	79	4
Bangladesh	496	513	3,4%	15	494	4	-
China	8 416	353	-95,8%	34	307	10	2
India	7 247	547	-92,5%	46	475	24	2
Japan	1 923	86	-95,5%	7	77	2	-
Malaysia	581	28	-95,2%	2	24	2	-
Pakistan	1 110	386	-65,2%	9	369	8	-
Philippines	582	304	-47,8%	1	296	7	-
South Korea	1 314	69	-94,7%	8	61	-	-
Taiwan	371	40	-89,2%	3	36	1	-
Thailand	548	118	-78,5%	2	107	9	-
Other	1 802	107	-94,1%	2	93	12	-
Africa	601 655	85 327	-85,8%	13 766	69 738	1 477	346
SADC	587 324	82 390	-86,0%	13 631	67 198	1 251	310
Angola	4 622	686	-85,2%	9	647	19	11
Botswana	56 288	1 851	-96,7%	432	1 291	75	53
DRC	2 248	756	-66,4%	36	657	50	13
Eswatini	76 104	5 547	-92,7%	755	4 697	86	9

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

Country of residence	November			Purpose of visit (November 2020)			
	2019	2020	% change 2019–2020	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Lesotho	114 844	10 117	-91,2%	1 120	8 199	668	130
Madagascar	392	25	-93,6%	-	24	1	-
Malawi	16 462	3 038	-81,5%	266	2 739	23	10
Mauritius	2 496	56	-97,8%	-	50	5	1
Mozambique	110 399	26 738	-75,8%	2 451	24 249	36	2
Namibia	14 622	4 662	-68,1%	3 132	1 420	91	19
Seychelles	667	28	-95,8%	3	23	2	-
Tanzania	3 322	814	-75,5%	55	730	20	9
Zambia	12 186	4 977	-59,2%	1 662	3 256	45	14
Zimbabwe	172 672	23 095	-86,6%	3 710	19 216	130	39
'Other' African	14 331	2 937	-79,5%	135	2 540	226	36
East and Central Africa	6 388	1 315	-79,4%	67	1 132	96	20
Burundi	92	8	-91,3%	-	6	-	2
Cameroon	526	105	-80,0%	5	78	18	4
Central African Republic	23	3	-87,0%	-	3	-	-
Chad	36	11	-69,4%	1	6	1	3
Comoros	50	75	50,0%	1	74	-	-
Congo	194	70	-63,9%	4	52	11	3
Djibouti	28	-	-	-	-	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	60	7	-88,3%	1	5	1	-
Eritrea	52	1	-98,1%	1	-	-	-
Ethiopia	647	219	-66,2%	8	201	5	5
Gabon	316	197	-37,7%	3	178	15	1
Kenya	2 794	384	-86,3%	28	329	26	1
Réunion	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rwanda	156	25	-84,0%	-	20	5	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	11	27	145,5%	-	27	-	-
Somalia	77	15	-80,5%	2	10	3	-
Uganda	1 325	168	-87,3%	13	143	11	1

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

Country of residence	November			Purpose of visit (November 2020)			
	2019	2020	% change 2019–2020	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
West Africa	6 075	1 287	-78,8%	51	1 141	84	11
Benin	205	57	-72,2%	2	49	3	3
Burkina Faso	103	8	-92,2%	1	6	1	-
Cape Verde Island	41	2	-95,1%	-	2	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	288	26	-91,0%	1	23	2	-
Gambia	74	4	-94,6%	-	3	1	-
Ghana	1 581	443	-72,0%	14	418	9	2
Guinea	172	27	-84,3%	2	23	2	-
Guinea-Bissau	20	1	-95,0%	-	1	-	-
Liberia	86	6	-93,0%	1	4	-	1
Mali	114	17	-85,1%	-	16	1	-
Mauritania	43	-	-	-	-	-	-
Niger	26	5	-80,8%	1	4	-	-
Nigeria	2 903	653	-77,5%	29	557	62	5
Saint Helena	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Senegal	279	23	-91,8%	-	22	1	-
Sierra Leone	86	7	-91,9%	-	7	-	-
Togo	45	8	-82,2%	-	6	2	-
North Africa	1 868	335	-82,1%	17	267	46	5
Algeria	130	17	-86,9%	-	14	2	1
Egypt	854	199	-76,7%	14	158	26	1
Libya	87	23	-73,6%	2	17	4	-
Morocco	315	8	-97,5%	-	8	-	-
South Sudan	104	14	-86,5%	-	7	4	3
The Sudan	196	54	-72,4%	-	44	10	-
Tunisia	179	20	-88,8%	1	19	-	-
Western Sahara	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unspecified	1 746	249	-85,7%	10	238	-	1

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

Sex	Age group	November		Region (November 2020)			
		2019	2020	Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	850 537	101 096	15 520	82 390	2 937	249
	0-14	30 867	3 300	992	2 151	154	3
	15-24	67 771	6 125	1 185	4 595	342	3
	25-34	230 893	23 310	3 569	18 778	926	37
	35-44	231 167	36 160	3 490	31 730	862	78
	45-54	137 463	20 837	2 896	17 470	397	74
	55-64	92 642	8 500	2 246	6 011	194	49
	65+	59 734	2 864	1 142	1 655	62	5
Male	Total	470 385	75 085	10 021	63 020	1 859	185
	0-14	15 375	1 684	505	1 100	77	2
	15-24	34 423	3 283	662	2 424	194	3
	25-34	124 699	16 615	2 201	13 822	566	26
	35-44	138 649	29 020	2 506	25 868	590	56
	45-54	79 576	16 553	2 029	14 200	268	56
	55-64	47 753	6 236	1 427	4 643	129	37
	65+	29 910	1 694	691	963	35	5
Female	Total	380 152	26 011	5 499	19 370	1 078	64
	0-14	15 492	1 616	487	1 051	77	1
	15-24	33 348	2 842	523	2 171	148	-
	25-34	106 194	6 695	1 368	4 956	360	11
	35-44	92 518	7 140	984	5 862	272	22
	45-54	57 887	4 284	867	3 270	129	18
	55-64	44 889	2 264	819	1 368	65	12
	65+	29 824	1 170	451	692	27	-

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 November 2020, the DHA data was 6,4% 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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