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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 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 1 053 311 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry/exit in November 2021. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 337 706 South African residents and 715 605 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 168 490 arrivals, 168 973 departures and 243 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 371 649, 325 842 and 18 114 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in November 2020 and November 2021 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and travellers in transit increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 84,3% (from 91 418 in November 2020 to 168 490 in November 2021). Departures increased by 93,8% (from 87 179 in November 2020 to 168 973 in November 2021), and transits increased by 594,3% (from 35 in November 2020 to 243 in November 2021). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 143,4% (from 152 694 in November 2020 to 371 649 in November 2021), departures increased by 139,1% (from 136 277 in November 2020 to 325 842 in November 2021), and transits increased by 484,7% (from 3 098 in November 2020 to 18 114 in November 2021).

A comparison between the movements in October 2021 and November 2021 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures decreased for South African residents but increased for foreign travellers. Travellers in transit increased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 3,1% (from 173 890 in October 2021 to 168 490 in November 2021), departures decreased by 3,6% (from 175 352 in October 2021 to 168 973 in November 2021) and transits increased by 27,9% (from 190 in October 2021 to 243 in November 2021). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 10,1% (from 337 611 in October 2021 to 371 649 in November 2021), departures increased by 9,3% (from 298 073 in October 2021 to 325 842 in November 2021) and transits increased by 9,9% (from 16 478 in October 2021 to 18 114 in November 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 November 2021, 43 959 (11,8%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 327 690 (88,2%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in November 2021 but did not depart in November 2021 [102 539 (31,3%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in November 2021 and left in November 2021 [121 590 (37,1%)];
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in November 2021 [103 561 (31,6%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In November 2021, there were 52 043 (15,9%) same-day visitors and 275 647 (84,1%) tourists. Between November 2020 and November 2021, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 193,0% (from 17 765 in November 2020 to 52 043 in November 2021) and that of tourists increased by 172,7% (from 101 096 in November 2020 to 275 647 in November 2021). Between October 2021 and November 2021, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 13,8% (from 45 723 in October 2021 to 52 043 in November 2021) and that of tourists increased by 11,2% (from 247 833 in October 2021 to 275 647 in November 2021).

1.1.2 Mode of travel of travellers

Information presented in Table 2 on page 10, shows the number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction and mode of travel. In November 2021, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 638 940 (60,7%) of the 1 053 311 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 409 628 (38,9%). Compared to air and land transport, a smaller number of travellers, 4 743 (0,5%) used sea transport into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 77 129 (45,8%) came by air, 91 206 (54,1%) came by road and 155 (0,1%) arrived by sea. For departures, 75 968 (45,0%) used air, 92 851 (55,0%) used road and 154 (0,1%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 243 (100,0%) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 122 665 (33,0%) arrived by air, 246 759 (66,4%) came by road and 2 225 (0,6%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 115 509 (35,4%) foreign travellers left by air, 208 124 (63,9%) left by road and 2 209 (0,7%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 18 114 (100,0%) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that of the 52 043 same-day visitors, a majority, 43 772 (84,1%) arrived in the country by road, 8 252 (15,9%) flew into the country and 19 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. Information on tourists shows that 170 774 (62,0%) used road transport, 104 729 (38,0%) came by air transport and 144 (0,1%) arrived by sea transport.

1.2 Tourists

1.2.1 Mode of travel of tourists

The country of residence of tourists is used to categorise them according to their respective countries and regions. Information on the specific region and country of residence of tourists and the mode of travel used to enter South Africa is provided in Table 3 on pages 11 to 14. In November 2021, 68 656 (93,2%) of the 73 679 overseas tourists arrived in the country by air transport, whilst 4 880 (6,6%) came in by road transport and 143 (0,2%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 165 143 (85,5%), whilst 28 088 (14,5%) came by air and one tourist (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 7 520 (93,1%); 555 (6,9%) used road transport and none used sea transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In November 2021, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 50 860 (69,0%); North America, 12 218 (16,6%); Asia, 5 479 (7,4%); The Middle East, 2 423 (3,3%); Central and South America, 1 641 (2,2%) and Australasia, 1 058 (1,4%).

Figure 1 on page 7 indicates that the ten leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in November 2021 were: Germany, 12 897 (17,5%); United Kingdom (UK), 11 340 (15,4%); United States of America (USA), 10 572 (14,3%); The Netherlands, 4 786 (6,5%); France, 4 479 (6,1%); Switzerland, 2 741 (3,7%); India, 2 392 (3,2%); Belgium, 1 930 (2,6%); Russian Federation, 1 743 (2,4%) and Canada, 1 646 (2,2%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 74,0 % of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the ten leading countries between November 2020 and November 2021 shows that the number of tourists increased for all ten leading countries. Germany had the highest increase of 654,2% (from 1 710 tourists in November 2020 to 12 897 tourists in November 2021).

Virtually, most tourists from Africa, 193 232 (96,0%), came from SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 4 008 (2,0%); East and Central Africa, 3 130 (1,6%) and North Africa 937 (0,5%). Ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in November 2021 were: Mozambique, 54 586 (28,2%); Zimbabwe, 41 386 (21,4%); Lesotho, 35 082 (18,2%); Eswatini, 20 016 (10,4%); Botswana, 13 434 (7,0%); Namibia, 9 139 (4,7%); Zambia, 7 442 (3,9%); Malawi, 6 993 (3,6%); Angola, 1 619 (0,8%) and Tanzania, 1 579 (0,8%) (see Figure 2 on page 7). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,0% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison between movements in November 2020 and November 2021 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists increased for all ten leading countries. Botswana showed the highest increase of 625,8% (from 1 851 tourists in November 2020 to 13 434 in November 2021).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in November 2021 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8, were: Nigeria, 1 774 (22,0%); Ghana, 1 518 (18,8%); Kenya, 1 349 (16,7%); Uganda 552 (6,8%); Egypt, 518 (6,4%); Ethiopia, 373 (4,6%); Cameroon, 350 (4,3%); Gabon, 181 (2,2%); Côte d'Ivoire, 165 (2,0%) and Algeria, 136 (1,7%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 85,6% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in November 2020 and November 2021 shows that the number of tourists increased for nine of the ten leading countries. Algeria showed the highest increase of 700,0% (from 17 tourists in November 2020 to 136 in November 2021).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

Table 4 on pages 15 to 18, shows the number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit. It is observed that in November 2021, the majority of tourists, 256 981 (93,2%), were in South Africa for holiday¹ compared to 16 620 (6,0%); 1 583 (0,6%) and 463 (0,2%) who were in South Africa for business, study and medical treatment respectively.

Within the overseas regions, Australasia had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for holiday, 98,4% (1 041), followed by North America, 98,4% (12 017); Central and South America, 97,7% (1 604); Europe, 97,1% (49 387); The Middle East, 96,2% (2 331) and Asia, 93,3% (5 111).

Asia, 5,5% (301) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business, followed by Europe, 2,5% (1 291); The Middle East, 2,1% (50); Central and South America, 1,8% (29); Australasia, 1,5% (16) and North America, 1,4% (171).

The Middle East, 1,7% (40) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to study, followed by Asia, 1,2% (64); Central and South America, 0,5% (8); Europe, 0,3% (130); North America, 0,1% (17) and Australasia, 0,1% (1).

Europe, North America, Asia and The Middle East had the same proportion of its tourists who came for medical treatment, Europe 0,1% (52); North America, 0,1% (13); Asia, 0,1% (3); and The Middle East, 0,1% (2). Australasia and Central and South America had no tourists who came to South Africa for medical treatment.

The majority of African tourists, 184 863 (91,8%) came to South Africa for holiday. However, the following differences in terms of reasons for travel were observed between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- Holiday makers constituted 92,0% (177 780) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 87,7% (7 083) from 'other' African countries. Information on the regions of 'other' African countries shows that 88,9% (3 563) of tourists from West Africa and 88,9% (2 783) from East and Central Africa were on holiday, followed by tourists from North Africa 78,7% (737).
- Business persons constituted 9,1% (734) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared to 7,2% (13 995) from SADC countries. North Africa, 17,5% (164) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes, followed by West Africa, 8,7% (349) and East and Central Africa, 7,1% (221).
- Students constituted 2,6% (213) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,6% (1 109) from SADC countries. North Africa, 3,6% (34) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes, followed by East and Central Africa, 3,0% (95) and West Africa, 2,1% (84).
- Tourists who came for medical treatment constituted 0,6% (45) of tourists from 'other' African countries, while those from SADC constituted 0,2% (348). East and Central Africa, 1,0% (31) had the highest proportion of tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by West Africa, 0,3% (12) and North Africa, 0,2% (2).

¹ The holiday category includes tourists who came for vacation, visiting friends and relatives, shopping and other personal reasons. See section 5.5.2 on page 25 for a more detailed discussion.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 19, shows the number of tourists by country of residence, sex and age group. There were 174 474 (63,3%) male and 101 173 (36,7%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 42 332 (57,5%) male tourists and 31 347 (42,5%) female tourists. There were 126 457 (65,4%) male and 66 775 (34,6%) female tourists from SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 5 278 (65,4%) male and 2 797 (34,6%) female.

The ages of tourists were categorised into seven broad groups (see Table 5 for a detailed classification). The results presented in Table 5 further show that the majority of tourists were aged between 35 and 44 years [86 177 (31,3%)]. Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results show that the highest proportion of tourists from 'other' African countries [2 556 (31,7%)] and those from SADC countries [69 561 (36,0%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years, whereas those from overseas countries [16 741 (22,7%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years.

The second highest proportion of tourists from 'other' African countries [2 527 (31,3%)] and those from SADC countries [46 370 (24,0%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years, whereas those from overseas countries [13 826 (18,8%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years. The median ages of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African countries were 43, 39 and 37 years respectively. The proportion of tourists younger than 15 years was higher among tourists from overseas countries, 4,9% (3 628) followed by those from SADC countries, 3,5% (6 750) and those from 'other' African countries, 2,3% (187).

A comparison of the three regions shows higher proportions of the elderly (those aged 65+) among both male and female tourists from overseas. This comprised of 11,9% (5 020) males and 13,0% (4 079) females from overseas countries. However, tourists aged 65 years and older from the other two regions comprised of less than 4,0% of both male and female tourists: from SADC countries, elderly tourists were made up of 2,1% (2 678) males and 3,7% (2 496) females; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 2,5% (130) and 2,5% (69) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in November 2020 and November 2021

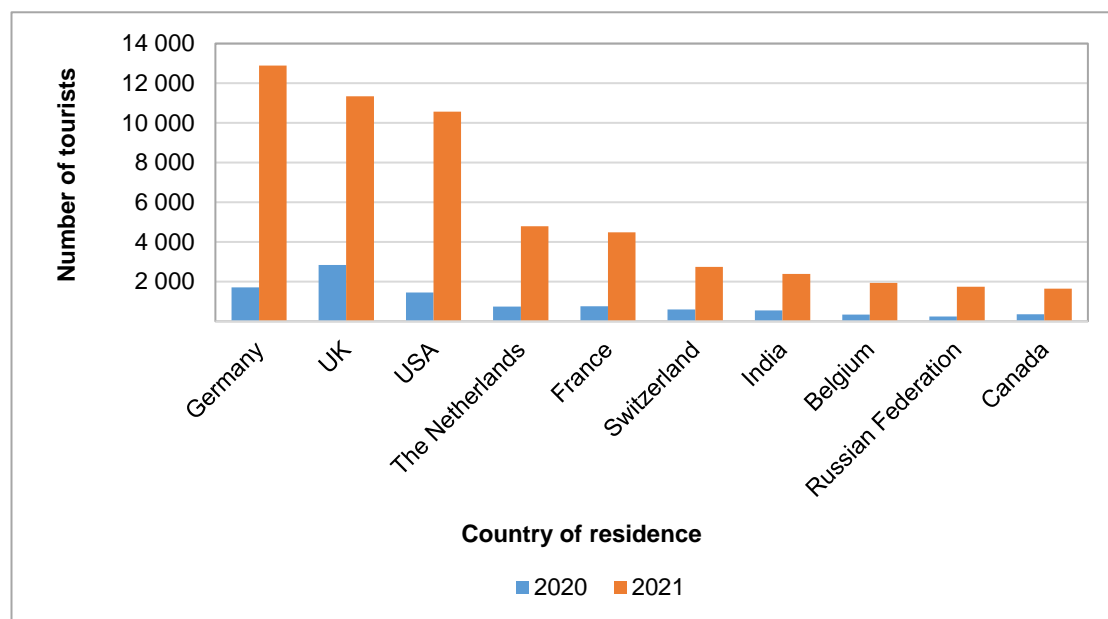


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in November 2020 and November 2021

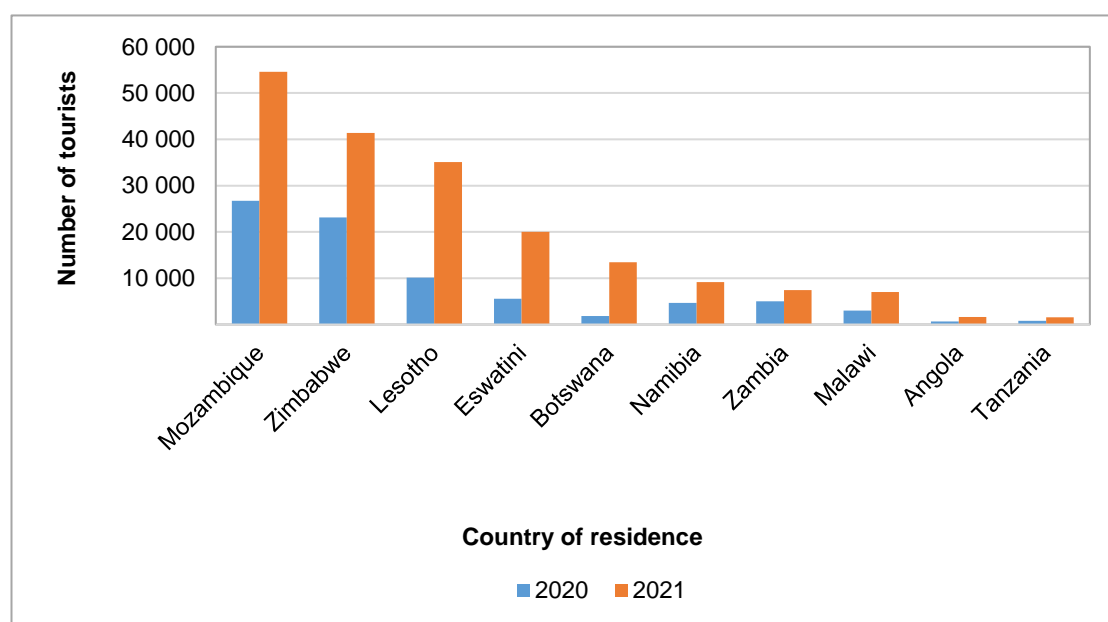
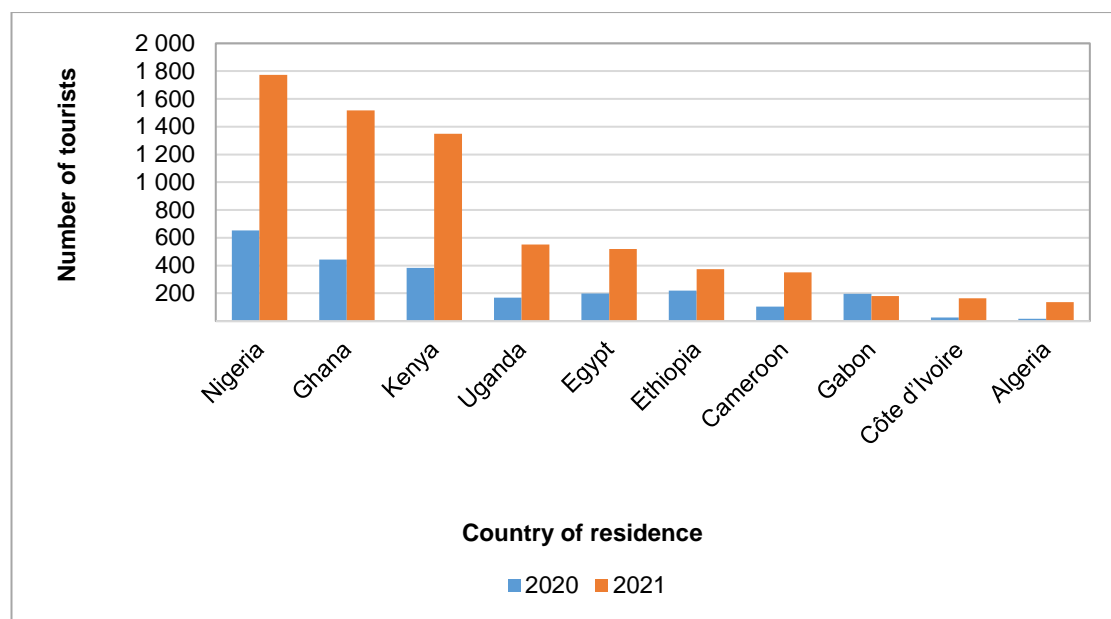


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in November 2020 and November 2021



3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	November 2020	October 2021	November 2021	% Change Oct 2021 – Nov 2021	% Change Nov 2020 – Nov 2021
Total	470 701	1 001 594	1 053 311	5,2%	123,8%
South African residents	178 632	349 432	337 706	-3,4%	89,1%
Arrivals	91 418	173 890	168 490	-3,1%	84,3%
Departures	87 179	175 352	168 973	-3,6%	93,8%
Transits	35	190	243	27,9%	594,3%
Foreign travellers	292 069	652 162	715 605	9,7%	145,0%
Arrivals	152 694	337 611	371 649	10,1%	143,4%
Departures	136 277	298 073	325 842	9,3%	139,1%
Transits	3 098	16 478	18 114	9,9%	484,7%
Foreign arrivals	152 694	337 611	371 649	10,1%	143,4%
Non-visitors	33 833	44 055	43 959	-0,2%	29,9%
Visitors	118 861	293 556	327 690	11,6%	175,7%
Visitors	118 861	293 556	327 690	11,6%	175,7%
Arrivals only	41 871	98 707	102 539	3,9%	144,9%
Single trips	29 775	103 934	121 590	17,0%	308,4%
Multiple trips	47 215	90 915	103 561	13,9%	119,3%
Visitors	118 861	293 556	327 690	11,6%	175,7%
Same-day	17 765	45 723	52 043	13,8%	193,0%
Overnight (Tourists)	101 096	247 833	275 647	11,2%	172,7%

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

Travel direction	Total	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	1 053 311	93 351	9 405	303 100	3 772	409 628	638 940	4 743
South African residents	337 706	25 447	5 056	120 449	2 388	153 340	184 057	309
Arrivals	168 490	11 940	2 229	61 837	1 123	77 129	91 206	155
Departures	168 973	13 502	2 827	58 374	1 265	75 968	92 851	154
Transit	243	5	-	238	-	243	-	-
Foreign travellers	715 605	67 904	4 349	182 651	1 384	256 288	454 883	4 434
Arrivals	371 649	36 020	2 276	83 781	588	122 665	246 759	2 225
Departures	325 842	31 617	2 073	81 023	796	115 509	208 124	2 209
Transit	18 114	267	-	17 847	-	18 114	-	-
Visitors	327 690	33 492	1 414	77 708	367	112 981	214 546	163
Same-day	52 043	449	9	7 749	45	8 252	43 772	19
Tourist	275 647	33 043	1 405	69 959	322	104 729	170 774	144

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

Country of residence	November		November 2021						
	2020	2021	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	101 096	275 647	33 043	1 405	69 959	322	104 729	170 774	144
Overseas	15 520	73 679	28 685	1 008	38 771	192	68 656	4 880	143
Europe	10 005	50 860	22 704	662	24 345	127	47 838	2 884	138
Austria	234	1 050	601	20	368	8	997	50	3
Belgium	341	1 930	822	11	959	12	1 804	126	-
Denmark	138	702	215	6	453	2	676	26	-
France	765	4 479	1 301	31	2 771	20	4 123	356	-
Germany	1 710	12 897	7 727	92	4 509	13	12 341	446	110
Ireland	250	871	331	23	473	3	830	40	1
Italy	326	1 224	427	12	693	4	1 136	88	-
Portugal	321	1 198	207	26	472	11	716	482	-
Russian Federation	245	1 743	1 084	25	533	1	1 643	98	2
Spain	185	1 157	370	5	678	1	1 054	103	-
Sweden	243	1 051	480	16	501	-	997	54	-
Switzerland	597	2 741	1 366	17	1 233	9	2 625	100	16
The Netherlands	748	4 786	2 572	27	1 969	10	4 578	208	-
UK	2 833	11 340	3 768	281	6 878	26	10 953	383	4
Other	1 069	3 691	1 433	70	1 855	7	3 365	324	2
North America	1 811	12 218	3 345	103	8 102	50	11 600	618	-
Canada	353	1 646	540	17	999	6	1 562	84	-
USA	1 458	10 572	2 805	86	7 103	44	10 038	534	-
Central and South America	296	1 641	565	7	867	6	1 445	196	-
Argentina	39	104	27	1	64	-	92	12	-
Brazil	148	952	400	3	424	2	829	123	-
Mexico	9	167	48	1	113	4	166	1	-
Other	100	418	90	2	266	-	358	60	-

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

Country of residence	November		November 2021						
	2020	2021	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	318	1 058	246	33	728	2	1 009	44	5
Australia	237	880	203	24	612	1	840	36	4
New Zealand	81	175	42	9	114	1	166	8	1
Other	-	3	1	-	2	-	3	-	-
Middle East	539	2 423	1 216	43	1 083	5	2 347	76	-
Israel	218	766	224	25	472	5	726	40	-
Jordan	55	119	50	1	54	-	105	14	-
Saudi Arabia	56	1 127	768	7	350	-	1 125	2	-
Other	210	411	174	10	207	-	391	20	-
Asia	2 551	5 479	609	160	3 646	2	4 417	1 062	-
Bangladesh	513	429	73	12	281	-	366	63	-
China	353	668	23	5	414	-	442	226	-
India	547	2 392	247	72	1 713	2	2 034	358	-
Japan	86	159	38	3	111	-	152	7	-
Pakistan	386	834	60	39	536	-	635	199	-
Philippines	304	256	36	5	178	-	219	37	-
South Korea	69	205	20	9	142	-	171	34	-
Sri Lanka	28	63	12	-	23	-	35	28	-
Taiwan	40	86	6	1	17	-	24	62	-
Thailand	118	118	25	10	68	-	103	15	-
Other	107	269	69	4	163	-	236	33	-
Africa	85 327	201 307	4 315	395	30 768	130	35 608	165 698	1
SADC	82 390	193 232	3 427	107	24 473	81	28 088	165 143	1
Angola	686	1 619	512	67	837	2	1 418	201	-
Botswana	1 851	13 434	141	5	1 410	13	1 569	11 865	-
DRC	756	1 331	92	-	1 091	3	1 186	145	-
Eswatini	5 547	20 016	6	1	285	3	295	19 721	-

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

Country of residence	November		November 2021						
	2020	2021	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Lesotho	10 117	35 082	8	11	276	-	295	34 787	-
Madagascar	25	50	5	-	41	-	46	4	-
Malawi	3 038	6 993	20	2	1 565	1	1 588	5 405	-
Mauritius	56	426	6	-	368	-	374	52	-
Mozambique	26 738	54 586	5	-	1 915	17	1 937	52 649	-
Namibia	4 662	9 139	1 376	-	1 407	4	2 787	6 351	1
Seychelles	28	149	3	-	144	-	147	2	-
Tanzania	814	1 579	110	3	849	-	962	617	-
Zambia	4 977	7 442	26	5	2 288	3	2 322	5 120	-
Zimbabwe	23 095	41 386	1 117	13	11 997	35	13 162	28 224	-
'Other' African	2 937	8 075	888	288	6 295	49	7 520	555	-
East and Central Africa	1 315	3 130	447	21	2 384	47	2 899	231	-
Burundi	8	40	6	-	29	-	35	5	-
Cameroon	105	350	39	9	244	42	334	16	-
Central African Republic	3	3	-	-	2	-	2	1	-
Chad	11	26	-	-	26	-	26	-	-
Comoros	75	16	1	-	14	-	15	1	-
Congo	70	105	19	-	82	-	101	4	-
Djibouti	-	7	2	1	4	-	7	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	7	36	16	-	18	-	34	2	-
Eritrea	1	32	-	1	26	-	27	5	-
Ethiopia	219	373	29	3	295	-	327	46	-
Gabon	197	181	16	-	164	-	180	1	-
Kenya	384	1 349	261	4	994	2	1 261	88	-
Rwanda	25	45	1	1	41	-	43	2	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	27	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	-
Somalia	15	13	3	-	9	-	12	1	-
Uganda	168	552	54	2	434	3	493	59	-

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

Country of residence	November		November 2021						
	2020	2021	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	1 287	4 008	328	164	3 231	2	3 725	283	-
Benin	57	63	4	-	57	-	61	2	-
Burkina Faso	8	30	3	-	25	-	28	2	-
Cape Verde Island	2	9	5	-	2	-	7	2	-
Côte d'Ivoire	26	165	18	71	70	-	159	6	-
Gambia	4	27	2	1	23	-	26	1	-
Ghana	443	1 518	100	17	1 369	1	1 487	31	-
Guinea	27	89	4	8	25	-	37	52	-
Guinea-Bissau	1	5	-	-	5	-	5	-	-
Liberia	6	37	4	-	29	-	33	4	-
Mali	17	56	3	3	20	-	26	30	-
Mauritania	-	23	3	1	19	-	23	-	-
Niger	5	30	1	-	29	-	30	-	-
Nigeria	653	1 774	160	55	1 413	1	1 629	145	-
Senegal	23	98	19	8	69	-	96	2	-
Sierra Leone	7	24	1	-	17	-	18	6	-
Togo	8	60	1	-	59	-	60	-	-
North Africa	335	937	113	103	680	-	896	41	-
Algeria	17	136	4	15	115	-	134	2	-
Egypt	199	518	58	76	370	-	504	14	-
Libya	23	37	5	4	21	-	30	7	-
Morocco	8	59	9	3	39	-	51	8	-
South Sudan	14	65	3	1	59	-	63	2	-
The Sudan	54	51	14	1	28	-	43	8	-
Tunisia	20	71	20	3	48	-	71	-	-
Unspecified	249	661	43	2	420	-	465	196	-

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

Country of residence	November			Purpose of visit (November 2021)			
	2020	2021	% change 2020–2021	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Total	101 096	275 647	172,7%	16 620	256 981	1 583	463
Overseas	15 520	73 679	374,7%	1 858	71 491	260	70
Europe	10 005	50 860	408,3%	1 291	49 387	130	52
Austria	234	1 050	348,7%	21	1 027	2	-
Belgium	341	1 930	466,0%	43	1 882	3	2
Denmark	138	702	408,7%	12	687	3	-
France	765	4 479	485,5%	164	4 280	34	1
Germany	1 710	12 897	654,2%	222	12 647	25	3
Ireland	250	871	248,4%	43	827	-	1
Italy	326	1 224	275,5%	100	1 116	3	5
Portugal	321	1 198	273,2%	37	1 150	4	7
Russian Federation	245	1 743	611,4%	25	1 718	-	-
Spain	185	1 157	525,4%	48	1 104	5	-
Sweden	243	1 051	332,5%	32	1 017	2	-
Switzerland	597	2 741	359,1%	30	2 705	6	-
The Netherlands	748	4 786	539,0%	118	4 663	4	1
UK	2 833	11 340	300,3%	276	11 017	18	29
Other	1 069	3 691	245,6%	120	3 547	21	3
North America	1 811	12 218	574,7%	171	12 017	17	13
Canada	353	1 646	366,3%	23	1 619	1	3
USA	1 458	10 572	625,1%	148	10 398	16	10
Central and South America	296	1 641	454,4%	29	1 604	8	-
Argentina	39	104	166,7%	2	102	-	-
Brazil	148	952	543,2%	12	935	5	-
Mexico	9	167	1755,6%	1	165	1	-
Other	100	418	318,0%	14	402	2	-

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

Country of residence	November			Purpose of visit (November 2021)			
	2020	2021	% change 2020–2021	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Australasia	318	1 058	232,7%	16	1 041	1	-
Australia	237	880	271,3%	13	867	-	-
New Zealand	81	175	116,0%	3	171	1	-
Other	-	3	-	-	3	-	-
Middle East	539	2 423	349,5%	50	2 331	40	2
Israel	218	766	251,4%	14	748	2	2
Jordan	55	119	116,4%	3	114	2	-
Saudi Arabia	56	1 127	1912,5%	2	1 110	15	-
Other	210	411	95,7%	31	359	21	-
Asia	2 551	5 479	114,8%	301	5 111	64	3
Bangladesh	513	429	-16,4%	15	411	3	-
China	353	668	89,2%	52	608	7	1
India	547	2 392	337,3%	166	2 195	29	2
Japan	86	159	84,9%	14	141	4	-
Pakistan	386	834	116,1%	25	805	4	-
Philippines	304	256	-15,8%	4	248	4	-
South Korea	69	205	197,1%	12	193	-	-
Sri Lanka	28	63	125,0%	-	63	-	-
Taiwan	40	86	115,0%	4	78	4	-
Thailand	118	118	0,0%	3	114	1	-
Other	107	269	151,4%	6	255	8	-
Africa	85 327	201 307	135,9%	14 729	184 863	1 322	393
SADC	82 390	193 232	134,5%	13 995	177 780	1 109	348
Angola	686	1 619	136,0%	85	1 489	29	16
Botswana	1 851	13 434	625,8%	872	12 306	68	188
DRC	756	1 331	76,1%	58	1 207	53	13
Eswatini	5 547	20 016	260,8%	1 043	18 899	73	1

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

Country of residence	November			Purpose of visit (November 2021)			
	2020	2021	% change 2020–2021	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Lesotho	10 117	35 082	246,8%	725	33 853	482	22
Madagascar	25	50	100,0%	-	44	6	-
Malawi	3 038	6 993	130,2%	274	6 697	13	9
Mauritius	56	426	660,7%	8	411	7	-
Mozambique	26 738	54 586	104,2%	2 359	52 182	28	17
Namibia	4 662	9 139	96,0%	3 186	5 831	107	15
Seychelles	28	149	432,1%	-	147	-	2
Tanzania	814	1 579	94,0%	89	1 474	15	1
Zambia	4 977	7 442	49,5%	1 999	5 408	24	11
Zimbabwe	23 095	41 386	79,2%	3 297	37 832	204	53
'Other' African	2 937	8 075	174,9%	734	7 083	213	45
East and Central Africa	1 315	3 130	138,0%	221	2 783	95	31
Burundi	8	40	400,0%	3	37	-	-
Cameroon	105	350	233,3%	35	290	15	10
Central African Republic	3	3	0,0%	1	1	-	1
Chad	11	26	136,4%	1	22	3	-
Comoros	75	16	-78,7%	-	15	1	-
Congo	70	105	50,0%	5	89	8	3
Djibouti	-	7	-	2	5	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	7	36	414,3%	3	33	-	-
Eritrea	1	32	3100,0%	1	31	-	-
Ethiopia	219	373	70,3%	20	345	5	3
Gabon	197	181	-8,1%	-	164	17	-
Kenya	384	1 349	251,3%	114	1 195	35	5
Rwanda	25	45	80,0%	2	43	-	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	27	2	-92,6%	-	2	-	-
Somalia	15	13	-13,3%	-	13	-	-
Uganda	168	552	228,6%	34	498	11	9

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

Country of residence	November			Purpose of visit (November 2021)			
	2020	2021	% change 2020–2021	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
West Africa	1 287	4 008	211,4%	349	3 563	84	12
Benin	57	63	10,5%	3	55	4	1
Burkina Faso	8	30	275,0%	2	27	1	-
Cape Verde Island	2	9	350,0%	1	8	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	26	165	534,6%	75	88	2	-
Gambia	4	27	575,0%	4	22	1	-
Ghana	443	1 518	242,7%	75	1 424	17	2
Guinea	27	89	229,6%	7	75	7	-
Guinea-Bissau	1	5	400,0%	-	5	-	-
Liberia	6	37	516,7%	4	30	1	2
Mali	17	56	229,4%	5	50	1	-
Mauritania	-	23	-	3	19	1	-
Niger	5	30	500,0%	8	22	-	-
Nigeria	653	1 774	171,7%	133	1 587	48	6
Senegal	23	98	326,1%	22	75	1	-
Sierra Leone	7	24	242,9%	1	22	-	1
Togo	8	60	650,0%	6	54	-	-
North Africa	335	937	179,7%	164	737	34	2
Algeria	17	136	700,0%	35	95	6	-
Egypt	199	518	160,3%	96	410	11	1
Libya	23	37	60,9%	3	27	7	-
Morocco	8	59	637,5%	11	47	1	-
South Sudan	14	65	364,3%	7	56	1	1
The Sudan	54	51	-5,6%	6	37	8	-
Tunisia	20	71	255,0%	6	65	-	-
Unspecified	249	661	165,5%	33	627	1	-

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

Sex	Age group	November		Region (November 2021)			
		2020	2021	Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	101 096	275 647	73 679	193 232	8 075	661
	0-14	3 300	10 569	3 628	6 750	187	4
	15-24	6 125	16 017	4 165	11 296	548	8
	25-34	23 310	65 718	16 741	46 370	2 527	80
	35-44	36 160	86 177	13 826	69 561	2 556	234
	45-54	20 837	54 050	13 321	39 071	1 459	199
	55-64	8 500	28 641	12 899	15 010	599	133
	65+	2 864	14 475	9 099	5 174	199	3
Male	Total	75 085	174 474	42 332	126 457	5 278	407
	0-14	1 684	5 302	1 869	3 332	100	1
	15-24	3 283	8 319	2 201	5 794	320	4
	25-34	16 615	39 033	8 860	28 616	1 511	46
	35-44	29 020	59 619	8 768	48 940	1 780	131
	45-54	16 553	36 874	8 205	27 522	1 021	126
	55-64	6 236	17 497	7 409	9 575	416	97
	65+	1 694	7 830	5 020	2 678	130	2
Female	Total	26 011	101 173	31 347	66 775	2 797	254
	0-14	1 616	5 267	1 759	3 418	87	3
	15-24	2 842	7 698	1 964	5 502	228	4
	25-34	6 695	26 685	7 881	17 754	1 016	34
	35-44	7 140	26 558	5 058	20 621	776	103
	45-54	4 284	17 176	5 116	11 549	438	73
	55-64	2 264	11 144	5 490	5 435	183	36
	65+	1 170	6 645	4 079	2 496	69	1
		101 096	275 647	73 679	193 232	8 075	661

4. Annexures

4.1 Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists' difference between Jan – Nov 2020 and Jan – Nov 2021 by country of residence

Country of residence	Jan – Nov 2020	Jan – Nov 2021	Difference between Jan – Nov 2020 and Jan – Nov 2021	% change between Jan – Nov 2020 and Jan – Nov 2021
Total	2 802 320	1 992 591	-809 729	-28,9%
Overseas	661 030	326 288	-334 742	-50,6%
Europe	446 653	182 410	-264 243	-59,2%
Austria	9 463	3 381	-6 082	-64,3%
Belgium	12 726	7 684	-5 042	-39,6%
Denmark	8 764	3 143	-5 621	-64,1%
France	41 023	18 340	-22 683	-55,3%
Germany	106 092	38 580	-67 512	-63,6%
Ireland	8 755	3 095	-5 660	-64,6%
Italy	11 447	5 914	-5 533	-48,3%
Portugal	7 233	5 336	-1 897	-26,2%
Russian Federation	6 494	9 614	3 120	48,0%
Spain	6 399	6 193	-206	-3,2%
Sweden	14 082	3 554	-10 528	-74,8%
Switzerland	15 697	9 400	-6 297	-40,1%
The Netherlands	35 026	16 785	-18 241	-52,1%
UK	132 384	34 132	-98 252	-74,2%
Other	31 068	17 259	-13 809	-44,4%
North America	89 504	78 351	-11 153	-12,5%
Canada	17 545	6 488	-11 057	-63,0%
USA	71 959	71 863	-96	-0,1%
Central and South America	30 368	8 944	-21 424	-70,5%
Argentina	4 891	531	-4 360	-89,1%
Brazil	19 388	4 846	-14 542	-75,0%
Mexico	951	1 249	298	31,3%
Other	5 138	2 318	-2 820	-54,9%

Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists' difference between Jan – Nov 2020 and Jan – Nov 2021 by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	Jan – Nov 2020	Jan – Nov 2021	Difference between Jan – Nov 2020 and Jan – Nov 2021	% change between Jan – Nov 2020 and Jan – Nov 2021
Australasia	24 651	4 098	-20 553	-83,4%
Australia	20 720	3 360	-17 360	-83,8%
New Zealand	3 890	723	-3 167	-81,4%
Other	41	15	-26	-63,4%
Middle East	12 399	12 166	-233	-1,9%
Israel	5 998	3 228	-2 770	-46,2%
Jordan	615	781	166	27,0%
Saudi Arabia	3 225	5 408	2 183	67,7%
Other	2 561	2 749	188	7,3%
Asia	57 455	40 319	-17 136	-29,8%
Bangladesh	1 987	2 598	611	30,7%
China	12 592	6 261	-6 331	-50,3%
India	18 892	16 162	-2 730	-14,5%
Japan	5 236	1 122	-4 114	-78,6%
Malaysia	1 398	523	-875	-62,6%
Pakistan	4 847	6 032	1 185	24,4%
Philippines	1 901	2 952	1 051	55,3%
South Korea	4 222	1 194	-3 028	-71,7%
Taiwan	1 210	692	-518	-42,8%
Thailand	1 380	1 116	-264	-19,1%
Other	3 790	1 667	-2 123	-56,0%
Africa	2 137 524	1 662 400	-475 124	-22,2%
SADC	2 096 671	1 617 265	-479 406	-22,9%
Angola	15 443	8 486	-6 957	-45,0%
Botswana	129 467	89 376	-40 091	-31,0%
DRC	9 062	10 898	1 836	20,3%
Eswatini	214 947	157 124	-57 823	-26,9%

Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists' difference between Jan – Nov 2020 and Jan – Nov 2021 by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	Jan – Nov 2020	Jan – Nov 2021	Difference between Jan – Nov 2020 and Jan – Nov 2021	% change between Jan – Nov 2020 and Jan – Nov 2021
Lesotho	448 745	312 477	-136 268	-30,4%
Madagascar	646	223	-423	-65,5%
Malawi	53 365	49 908	-3 457	-6,5%
Mauritius	4 633	1 247	-3 386	-73,1%
Mozambique	422 537	469 441	46 904	11,1%
Namibia	54 511	80 485	25 974	47,6%
Seychelles	1 306	350	-956	-73,2%
Tanzania	10 977	11 853	876	8,0%
Zambia	46 486	61 601	15 115	32,5%
Zimbabwe	684 546	363 796	-320 750	-46,9%
'Other' African	40 853	45 135	4 282	10,5%
East and Central Africa	17 450	19 246	1 796	10,3%
Burundi	229	329	100	43,7%
Cameroon	1 332	1 806	474	35,6%
Central African Republic	71	49	-22	-31,0%
Chad	103	137	34	33,0%
Comoros	168	80	-88	-52,4%
Congo	562	904	342	60,9%
Djibouti	14	34	20	142,9%
Equatorial Guinea	101	138	37	36,6%
Eritrea	114	127	13	11,4%
Ethiopia	2 076	2 539	463	22,3%
Gabon	1 825	1 769	-56	-3,1%
Kenya	6 899	7 133	234	3,4%
Réunion	17	-	-17	-100,0%
Rwanda	230	245	15	6,5%
São Tomé and Príncipe	47	10	-37	-78,7%
Somalia	152	162	10	6,6%
Uganda	3 510	3 784	274	7,8%

Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists' difference between Jan – Nov 2020 and Jan – Nov 2021 by country of residence (concluded)

Country of residence	Jan – Nov 2020	Jan – Nov 2021	Difference between Jan – Nov 2020 and Jan – Nov 2021	% change between Jan – Nov 2020 and Jan – Nov 2021
West Africa	18 610	21 304	2 694	14,5%
Benin	476	435	-41	-8,6%
Burkina Faso	166	135	-31	-18,7%
Cape Verde Island	64	51	-13	-20,3%
Côte d'Ivoire	630	603	-27	-4,3%
Gambia	120	93	-27	-22,5%
Ghana	5 257	7 181	1 924	36,6%
Guinea	364	468	104	28,6%
Guinea-Bissau	36	27	-9	-25,0%
Liberia	136	200	64	47,1%
Mali	315	373	58	18,4%
Mauritania	47	39	-8	-17,0%
Niger	73	97	24	32,9%
Nigeria	10 191	10 737	546	5,4%
Saint Helena	41	9	-32	-78,0%
Senegal	392	590	198	50,5%
Sierra Leone	180	142	-38	-21,1%
Togo	122	124	2	1,6%
North Africa	4 793	4 585	-208	-4,3%
Algeria	333	390	57	17,1%
Egypt	2 555	2 288	-267	-10,5%
Libya	268	362	94	35,1%
Morocco	498	336	-162	-32,5%
South Sudan	249	318	69	27,7%
The Sudan	542	610	68	12,5%
Tunisia	347	275	-72	-20,7%
Western Sahara	1	6	5	500,0%
Unspecified	3 766	3 903	137	3,6%

5. Explanatory notes

5.1 Introduction

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

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

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

5.2 Purpose of the statistical release

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

5.3 Scope and coverage

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

5.4 Data

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

- Data routinely collected by immigration officers at all road, air and sea entry ports on all travellers (South African residents and foreign travellers) arriving into or departing from South Africa are captured into the DHA's population Movement Control System (MCS). The counts/statistics relate to the number of individual movements, rather than to the number of people. Hence, the multiple movements of individual people during the calendar month are each counted separately. Generally, the data are collected directly from travel documents either by scanning or capturing onto the ports' electronic database. No forms or cards are used (except on rare occasions when the capturing system is down) to collect information from travellers. Individual ports regularly transmit data onto the national database at the head office of the DHA.
- Stats SA receives downloaded data covering a particular calendar month from the DHA.
- As part of data interrogation, data from O.R. Tambo International Airport, which has the highest volume of travellers, are compared with passenger statistics from the Airports Company of South Africa (ACSA). As expected, in any specific month, an increase in the volume of passengers reported by ACSA is also reflected in an increase in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. A similar pattern is observed when the volume of travellers decreases. In November 2021, the DHA data was 3,5% 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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