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The South Africa I know, the home I understand



Contents

Preface	2
1. Key findings	3
1.1 Travellers	3
1.1.1 Number of travellers	3
1.1.2 Mode of travel	4
1.2 Tourists	4
1.2.1 Mode of travel	4
1.2.2 Regional and national distribution	4
1.2.3 Purpose of visit	5
1.2.4 Sex and age distribution	6
2. Figures	7
Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in October 2018 and October 2019	7
Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in October 2018 and October 2019	7
Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in October 2018 and October 2019	8
3. Tables	9
Table 1 – Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction	9
Table 2 – Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction and mode of travel	10
Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, October 2019	11
Table 4 – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit	15
Table 5 – Number of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African regions by sex and age group	19
4. Annexures	20
4.1 Annexure A – Cumulative number of tourists' difference between Jan–Oct 2018 and Jan–Oct 2019 by country of residence	20
5. Explanatory notes	24
5.1 Introduction	24
5.2 Purpose of the statistical release	24
5.3 Scope and coverage	24
5.4 Data	24
5.5 Limitations	25
5.5.1 Outbound tourists	25
5.5.2 Purpose of visit	25
5.6 Definition of terms	25
5.6.1 Definitions used by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)	25
5.6.2 Definitions used specifically in this release	25
5.7 Symbols used	26
5.8 Rounding off	26
6. General information	26

Preface

This monthly statistical release provides information on South African residents and foreign travellers who entered or left South Africa in October 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; the 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 3 435 653 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry/exit in October 2019. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 927 951 South African residents and 2 507 702 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 477 340 arrivals, 449 801 departures and 810 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 1 297 483, 1 139 310 and 70 909, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in October 2018 and October 2019 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. Travellers in transit increased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 5,0% (from 502 528 in October 2018 to 477 340 in October 2019). Departures decreased by 0,6% (from 452 652 in October 2018 to 449 801 in October 2019), and transits increased by 3,3% (from 784 in October 2018 to 810 in October 2019). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 2,0% (from 1 323 652 in October 2018 to 1 297 483 in October 2019), departures decreased by 2,3% (from 1 166 107 in October 2018 to 1 139 310 in October 2019), and transits increased by 6,5% (from 66 573 in October 2018 to 70 909 in October 2019).

A comparison between the movements in September 2019 and October 2019 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures decreased for South African residents but increased for foreign travellers. Travellers in transit decreased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 10,3% (from 532 228 in September 2019 to 477 340 in October 2019), departures decreased by 15,5% (from 532 049 in September 2019 to 449 801 in October 2019), and transits decreased by 8,8% (from 888 in September 2019 to 810 in October 2019). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 6,4% (from 1 219 616 in September 2019 to 1 297 483 in October 2019), departures increased by 5,4% (from 1 080 483 in September 2019 to 1 139 310 in October 2019), and transits decreased by 9,4% (from 78 224 in September 2019 to 70 909 in October 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 9, in October 2019, 85 725 (6,6%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 1 211 758 (93,4%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in October 2019 but did not depart in October 2019 [308 512 (25,5%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in October 2019 and left in October 2019 [444 427 (36,7%)]; and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in October 2019 [458 819 (37,9%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In October 2019, there were 377 483 (31,2%) same-day visitors and 834 275 (68,8%) tourists. Between October 2018 and October 2019, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 0,8% (from 380 474 in October 2018 to 377 483 in October 2019) and that of tourists decreased by 3,2% (from 862 046 in October 2018 to 834 275 in October 2019). Between September 2019 and October 2019, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 7,2% (from 352 075 in September 2019 to 377 483 in October 2019), and tourists increased by 6,9% (from 780 381 in September 2019 to 834 275 in October 2019).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Information presented in Table 2 on page 10 shows that in October 2019, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 2 381 179 (69,3%) of the 3 435 653 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 1 046 330 (30,5%). Compared to the use of air and land transport, a smaller number of travellers, 8 144 (0,2%) used sea transport. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 200 574 (42,0%) came by air, 276 503 (57,9%) came by road and 263 (0,1%) arrived by sea transport. For departures, 176 347 (39,2%) used air, 273 223 (60,7%) used road and 231 (0,1%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 810 (100,0%) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 309 217 (23,8%) arrived by air, 983 691 (75,8%) came by road and 4 575 (0,4%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 288 473 (25,3%) foreign travellers left by air, 847 762 (74,4%) left by road and 3 075 (0,3%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 70 909 (100,0%) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that of the 377 483 same-day visitors, an overwhelming majority, 356 176 (94,4%) arrived in the country by road, 21 299 (5,6%) flew into the country; and 8 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport. Information on tourists shows that 560 261 (67,2%) used road transport, 273 090 (32,7%) came by air transport and 924 (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 October 2019, 223 068 (89,7%) of the 248 673 overseas tourists arrived in the country by air transport, whilst 24 683 (9,9%) came in by road transport and 922 (0,4%) arrived by sea transport. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 534 221 (93,4%), followed by air travel, 37 996 (6,6%) and sea transport, 2 (less than 0,1%). The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 10 988 (91,5%) and 1 020 (8,5%) tourists used road transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In October 2019, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 158 332 (63,7%); North America, 34 393 (13,8%); Asia, 28 559 (11,5%); Australasia, 10 442 (4,2%); Central and South America, 10 423 (4,2%); and the Middle East, 6 524 (2,6%).

Figure 1 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 11 to 12 indicate that the ten leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in October 2019 were Germany, 40 840 (16,4%), United Kingdom (UK), 37 164 (14,9%); United States of America (USA), 27 354 (11,0%); France, 19 412 (7,8%); The Netherlands, 15 516 (6,2%); Australia, 8 876 (3,6%); India, 8 509 (3,4%); China, 7 969 (3,2%); Canada, 7 039 (2,8%); and Brazil, 7 039 (2,8%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 72,3% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the ten leading countries between October 2018 and October 2019 shows that the number of tourists increased for five of the ten leading countries (India, Brazil, UK, Canada and Australia), and decreased for five of the ten leading countries (France, China, USA, Germany and The Netherlands). India had the largest increase of 30,3% (from 6 532 tourists in October 2018 to 8 509 tourists in October 2019). France, on the other hand, had the largest decrease of 16,9% (from 23 352 tourists in October 2018 to 19 412 tourists in October 2019).

Virtually most tourists from Africa, 572 219 (97,9%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: East and Central Africa, 5 614 (1,0%); West Africa, 5 063 (0,9%); and North Africa 1 331 (0,2%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in October 2019 were: Zimbabwe, 170 700 (29,8%); Lesotho, 115 027 (20,1%); Mozambique, 105 046 (18,4%); Swaziland, 75 315 (13,2%); Botswana, 51 251 (9,0%); Malawi, 17 087 (3,0%); Namibia, 13 244 (2,3%); Zambia, 11 979 (2,1%); Angola, 4 325 (0,8%) and Tanzania, 3 225 (0,6%). (See Figure 2 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 12 to 13). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,1% of all tourists from the SADC countries.

A comparison between movements in October 2018 and October 2019 for the ten leading SADC countries shows that the number of tourists increased for three of the ten leading countries (Tanzania, Swaziland and Zimbabwe), and decreased for seven of the ten leading countries (Namibia, Lesotho, Zambia, Angola, Botswana, Malawi and Mozambique). Tanzania showed the largest increase of 6,9% (from 3 017 tourists in October 2018 to 3 225 in October 2019), while Namibia showed the largest decrease of 19,9% (from 16 533 tourists in October 2018 to 13 244 in October 2019).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in October 2019 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8 and Table 3 on pages 13 to 14, were: Nigeria, 2 376 (19,8%); Kenya, 2 308 (19,2%); Ghana, 1 477 (12,3%); Uganda, 1 400 (11,7%); Egypt, 628 (5,2%); Ethiopia, 545 (4,5%); Cameroon, 394 (3,3%); Gabon, 347 (2,9%); Côte d'Ivoire, 212 (1,8%) and Senegal, 203 (1,7%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 82,4% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in October 2018 and October 2019 shows that the number of tourists increased for three of the ten leading countries (Uganda, Senegal and Gabon) and decreased for seven of the ten leading countries (Nigeria, Ethiopia, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Egypt and Cameroon). Uganda showed the largest increase of 57,3% (from 890 tourists in October 2018 to 1 400 in October 2019), while Nigeria showed the largest decrease of 44,4% (from 4 271 tourists in October 2018 to 2 376 in October 2019).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed in Table 4 on pages 15 to 18, in October 2019, the majority of tourists, 811 157 (97,2%), were in South Africa for holiday¹ compared to 18 590 (2,2%); 4 014 (0,5%) and 514 (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, 154 220 (63,9%) who came for holiday, 3 605 (55,8%) who came for business, 444 (52,4%) who came for study and 63 (63,0%) 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% (10 276), followed by Australasia, 97,6% (10 192), Europe, 97,4% (154 220), North America, 97,1% (33 407), the Middle East, 96,1% (6 271), and Asia, 94,2% (26 896).

Asia, 5,2% (1 495) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business, followed by the Middle East, 2,7% (179), North America, 2,5% (852), Europe, 2,3% (3 605), Australasia, 2,2% (228), and Central and South America, 1,0% (105).

The Middle East had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to study, 1,1% (73), followed by Asia, 0,5% (152), Central and South America, 0,4% (42), North America, 0,3% (115), Europe, 0,3% (444), and Australasia, 0,2% (21).

Asia and North America had 0,1% of their tourists who came for medical treatment. For the other three overseas regions, less than 0,1% of tourists from Europe, Australasia, and the Middle East came for medical treatment, whilst Central and South America had no tourists who came for medical treatment.

The majority of African tourists, 568 662 (97,3%) 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, 97,6% (558 473) were on holiday, compared to 84,9% (10 189) from 'other' African countries who came for the same purpose. Information on the regions of 'other' African countries shows that 88,0% (4 453) of tourists from West Africa were on holiday, followed by tourists from East and Central Africa, 83,0% (4 657); and North Africa 81,1% (1 079) respectively.
- Business persons constituted 10,6% (1 268) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared to 1,9% (10 724) from SADC countries. North Africa had the highest proportion, 13,9% (185) of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes, followed by East and Central Africa, 12,7% (713) and West Africa, 7,3% (370).

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.

- Students constituted 4,0% (485) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 0,5% (2 678) from SADC countries. North Africa, 4,9% (65) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes, followed by West Africa, 4,3% (218) and East and Central Africa, 3,6% (202).
- Medical treatment tourists constituted 0,5% (66) of tourists from 'other' African countries, while those from SADC constituted 0,1% (344) of its tourists. East and Central Africa, 0,7% (42) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by West Africa, 0,4% (22) and North Africa, 0,2% (2).

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 19 shows that in October 2019, there were 460 958 (55,3%) male and 373 317 (44,7%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 127 991 (51,5%) male tourists and 120 682 (48,5%) female tourists. There were 324 432 (56,7%) male and 247 787 (43,3%) female tourists from SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 7 681 (64,0%) male and 4 327 (36,0%) 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 [226 396 (27,1%)], followed closely by the age group 25 to 34 years [223 183 (26,8%)]. Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results show that the highest proportion of tourists from SADC countries [184 120 (32,2%)] and those from 'other' African countries [4 074 (33,9%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years, whereas those from overseas countries [49 691 (20,0%)] were aged between 55 and 44 years. The second highest proportion of tourists from SADC countries [173 910 (30,4%)], 'other' African countries [3 268 (27,2%)] and overseas countries [45 805 (18,4%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years. The median ages of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African countries were 47, 37 and 39 years respectively. The proportion of tourists aged less than 15 years was higher among tourists from overseas countries, 6,2% (15 364) compared to those from SADC countries, 3,6% (20 448) and to those from 'other' African countries, 2,5% (301).

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 16,5% (21 116) of male and 8,3% (20 684) 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% (7 224) and 3,6% (8 926) of male and female tourists respectively; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 2,9% (222) and 3,2% (137) of male and female tourists respectively.

2. Figures

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

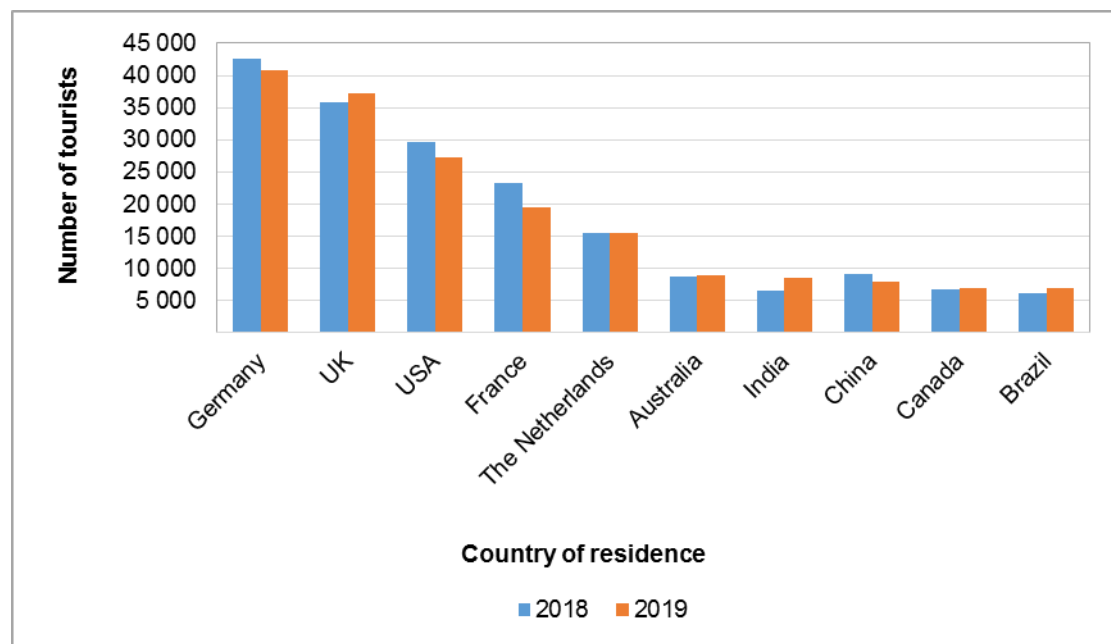


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in October 2018 and October 2019

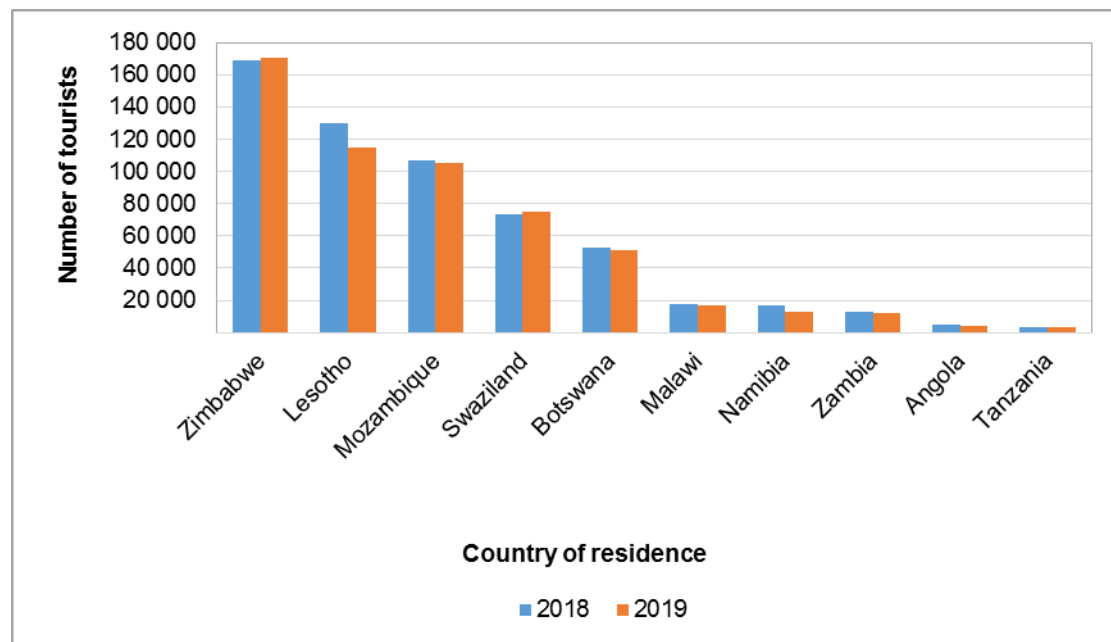
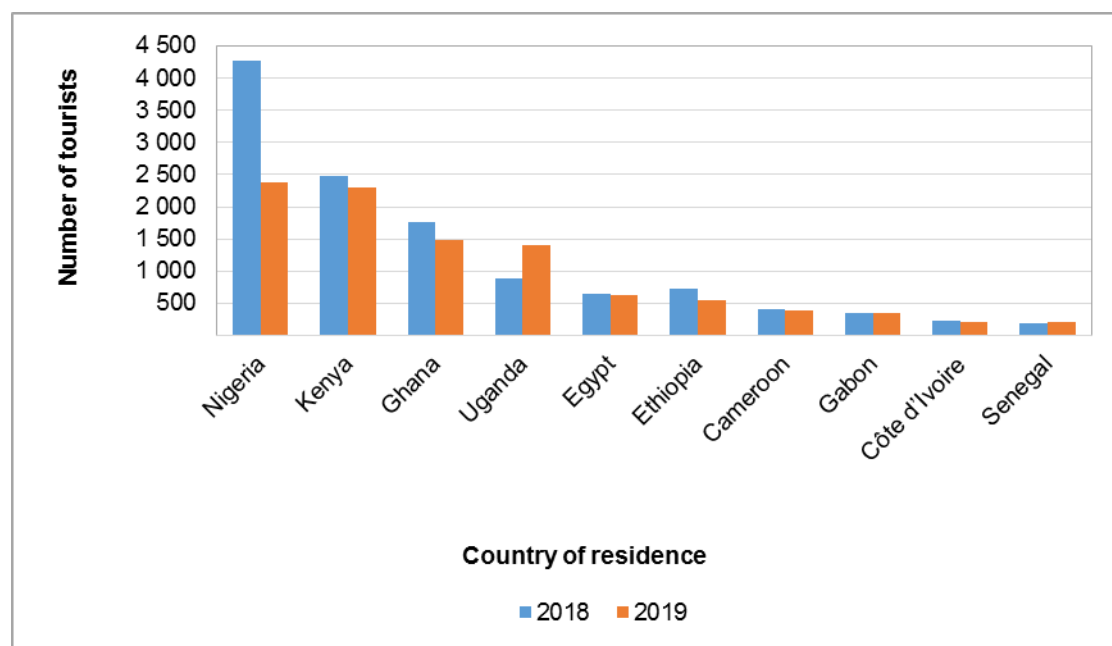


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in October 2018 and October 2019



3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	October 2018	September 2019	October 2019	% Change Sep 2019 – Oct 2019	% Change Oct 2018 – Oct 2019
Total	3 512 296	3 443 488	3 435 653	-0,2%	-2,2%
South African residents	955 964	1 065 165	927 951	-12,9%	-2,9%
Arrivals	502 528	532 228	477 340	-10,3%	-5,0%
Departures	452 652	532 049	449 801	-15,5%	-0,6%
Transits	784	888	810	-8,8%	3,3%
Foreign travellers	2 556 332	2 378 323	2 507 702	5,4%	-1,9%
Arrivals	1 323 652	1 219 616	1 297 483	6,4%	-2,0%
Departures	1 166 107	1 080 483	1 139 310	5,4%	-2,3%
Transits	66 573	78 224	70 909	-9,4%	6,5%
Foreign arrivals	1 323 652	1 219 616	1 211 758	-0,6%	-8,5%
Non-visitors	81 132	87 160	85 725	-100,0%	-100,0%
Visitors	1 242 520	1 132 456	1 211 758	7,0%	-2,5%
Visitors	1 242 520	1 132 456	1 211 758	7,0%	-2,5%
Arrivals only	310 428	303 721	308 512	1,6%	-0,6%
Single trips	446 333	403 817	444 427	10,1%	-0,4%
Multiple trips	485 759	424 918	458 819	8,0%	-5,5%
Visitors	1 242 520	1 132 456	1 211 758	7,0%	-2,5%
Same-Day	380 474	352 075	377 483	7,2%	-0,8%
Overnight (Tourists)	862 046	780 381	834 275	6,9%	-3,2%

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	3 435 653	212 589	32 819	792 747	8 175	1 046 330	2 381 179	8 144
South African residents	927 951	60 058	22 123	291 289	4 261	377 731	549 726	494
Arrivals	477 340	32 246	11 911	154 342	2 075	200 574	276 503	263
Departures	449 801	27 799	10 212	136 150	2 186	176 347	273 223	231
Transit	810	13	-	797	-	810	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 507 702	152 531	10 696	501 458	3 914	668 599	1 831 453	7 650
Arrivals	1 297 483	79 525	5 610	222 626	1 456	309 217	983 691	4 575
Departures	1 139 310	72 867	5 086	208 062	2 458	288 473	847 762	3 075
Transit	70 909	139	-	70 770	-	70 909	-	-
Visitors	1 211 758	76 754	4 799	211 675	1 161	294 389	916 437	932
Same day	377 483	846	22	20 315	116	21 299	356 176	8
Tourist	834 275	75 908	4 777	191 360	1 045	273 090	560 261	924

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

Country of residence	October		October 2019						
	2018	2019	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	862 046	834 275	75 908	4 777	191 360	1 045	273 090	560 261	924
Overseas	253 945	248 673	69 602	4 217	148 373	876	223 068	24 683	922
Europe	166 610	158 332	51 912	3 229	84 706	344	140 191	17 245	896
Austria	3 419	2 982	1 280	30	1 421	6	2 737	241	4
Belgium	5 847	5 741	1 617	42	3 208	6	4 873	864	4
Denmark	3 032	2 755	642	25	1 900	12	2 579	175	1
France	23 352	19 412	5 190	146	10 376	28	15 740	3 669	3
Germany	42 644	40 840	15 544	448	20 159	38	36 189	4 322	329
Ireland	2 841	2 671	1 149	111	1 270	8	2 538	129	4
Italy	5 688	4 837	1 606	60	2 850	3	4 519	317	1
Portugal	2 912	2 236	322	20	1 092	1	1 435	800	1
Russian Federation	1 359	1 513	615	19	686	110	1 430	81	2
Spain	3 971	3 895	861	44	2 584	15	3 504	391	-
Sweden	4 233	3 869	1 492	61	2 077	8	3 638	231	-
Switzerland	7 326	6 877	2 728	61	3 275	19	6 083	787	7
The Netherlands	15 525	15 516	4 687	102	7 887	13	12 689	2 816	11
UK	35 864	37 164	11 503	1 832	21 415	58	34 808	1 834	522
Other	8 597	8 024	2 676	228	4 506	19	7 429	588	7
North America	36 500	34 393	8 722	317	21 749	362	31 150	3 235	8
Canada	6 850	7 039	2 123	55	3 772	55	6 005	1 030	4
USA	29 650	27 354	6 599	262	17 977	307	25 145	2 205	4
Central and South America	9 655	10 423	699	19	9 146	32	9 896	526	1
Argentina	1 248	921	31	8	841	4	884	37	-
Brazil	6 108	7 039	336	5	6 332	10	6 683	355	1
Mexico	370	626	183	3	413	10	609	17	-
Other	1 929	1 837	149	3	1 560	8	1 720	117	-

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

Country of residence	October		October 2019						
	2018	2019	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	10 094	10 442	1 185	145	8 235	74	9 639	797	6
Australia	8 758	8 876	925	120	7 097	71	8 213	657	6
New Zealand	1 319	1 551	257	25	1 127	3	1 412	139	-
Other	17	15	3	-	11	-	14	1	-
Middle East	3 142	6 524	1 656	31	4 439	7	6 133	391	-
Israel	1 750	4 855	1 196	7	3 304	7	4 514	341	-
Lebanon	238	247	85	2	141	-	228	19	-
Saudi Arabia	373	656	162	4	485	-	651	5	-
Other	781	766	213	18	509	-	740	26	-
Asia	27 944	28 559	5 428	476	20 098	57	26 059	2 489	11
China	9 204	7 969	1 521	43	6 045	7	7 616	352	1
India	6 532	8 509	1 689	220	5 780	3	7 692	817	-
Japan	3 591	3 401	332	34	2 923	-	3 289	112	-
Pakistan	1 166	1 050	76	63	504	-	643	407	-
Philippines	779	677	115	8	450	21	594	74	9
Singapore	561	764	253	3	488	7	751	13	-
South Korea	1 517	1 243	323	11	722	2	1 058	185	-
Taiwan	636	964	288	3	499	12	802	162	-
Thailand	971	1 042	196	12	810	-	1 018	24	-
Vietnam	741	862	129	1	724	-	854	8	-
Other	2 246	2 078	506	78	1 153	5	1 742	335	1
Africa	606 922	584 227	6 207	557	42 052	168	48 984	535 241	2
SADC	593 052	572 219	4 816	502	32 552	126	37 996	534 221	2
Angola	4 654	4 325	1 444		2 507	4	3 955	370	-
Botswana	53 027	51 251	263	117	2 715	22	3 117	48 134	-
DRC	2 352	2 266	103	1	1 643	11	1 758	508	-
Lesotho	130 174	115 027	4	5	520	1	530	114 497	-

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

Country of residence	October		October 2019						
	2018	2019	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
Madagascar	160	325	14	-	274	1	289	36	-
Malawi	17 654	17 087	32	3	2 119	4	2 158	14 929	-
Mauritius	1 627	2 028	486	169	1 274	1	1 930	98	-
Mozambique	106 964	105 046	7	9	2 803	15	2 834	102 212	-
Namibia	16 533	13 244	1 753	65	2 596	20	4 434	8 810	-
Seychelles	654	401	2	2	393	-	397	4	-
Swaziland	73 659	75 315	3	4	681	1	689	74 625	1
Tanzania	3 017	3 225	112	-	1 565	4	1 681	1 544	-
Zambia	13 261	11 979	36	93	3 085	17	3 231	8 748	-
Zimbabwe	169 316	170 700	557	34	10 377	25	10 993	159 706	1
'Other' African	13 870	12 008	1 391	55	9 500	42	10 988	1 020	-
East and Central Africa	5 470	5 614	781	5	4 362	7	5 155	459	-
Burundi	56	84	17	-	63	-	80	4	-
Cameroon	405	394	38	-	326	3	367	27	-
Central African Republic	5	12	3	-	9	-	12	-	-
Chad	23	36	8	-	27	-	35	1	-
Comoros	21	32	8	-	23	-	31	1	-
Congo	174	154	47	-	105	1	153	1	-
Djibouti	8	7	1	-	6	-	7	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	28	48	24	-	23	-	47	1	-
Eritrea	35	39	4	-	28	-	32	7	-
Ethiopia	720	545	80	2	405	-	487	58	-
Gabon	345	347	37	-	304	-	341	6	-
Kenya	2 470	2 308	300	3	1 793	1	2 097	211	-
Réunion	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rwanda	72	101	21	-	70	-	91	10	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	7	27	6	-	21	-	27	-	-
Somalia	209	80	28	-	15	-	43	37	-
Uganda	890	1 400	159	-	1 144	2	1 305	95	-

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

Country of residence	October		October 2019						
	2018	2019	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape town	King Shaka	O.R. Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	7 095	5 063	381	28	4 112	34	4 555	508	-
Benin	128	131	21	-	107	-	128	3	-
Burkina Faso	48	85	17	-	68	-	85	-	-
Cape Verde Island	43	30	9	-	20	-	29	1	-
Côte d'Ivoire	229	212	19	1	190	-	210	2	-
Gambia	23	46	8	-	35	-	43	3	-
Ghana	1 756	1 477	72	8	1 334	-	1 414	63	-
Guinea	100	102	14	-	49	-	63	39	-
Guinea-Bissau	5	17	4	-	11	-	15	2	-
Liberia	57	62	8	-	54	-	62	-	-
Mali	102	140	15	-	85	-	100	40	-
Mauritania	11	21	6	-	15	-	21	-	-
Niger	17	23	1	-	22	-	23	-	-
Nigeria	4 271	2 376	137	14	1 860	33	2 044	332	-
Saint Helena	13	4	-	-	4	-	4	-	-
Senegal	197	203	36	5	151	1	193	10	-
Sierra Leone	53	85	7	-	67	-	74	11	-
Togo	42	49	7	-	40	-	47	2	-
North Africa	1 305	1 331	229	22	1 026	1	1 278	53	-
Algeria	103	136	21	1	112	-	134	2	-
Egypt	646	628	61	11	526	1	599	29	-
Libya	69	62	11	5	32	-	48	14	-
Morocco	172	153	28	1	120	-	149	4	-
South Sudan	45	109	20	-	86	-	106	3	-
The Sudan	180	162	53	3	105	-	161	1	-
Tunisia	90	80	35	1	44	-	80	-	-
Western Sahara	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Unspecified	1 179	1 375	99	3	935	1	1 038	337	-

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

Country of residence	October			Purpose of visit (October 2019)			
	2018	2019	% change 2018–2019	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Total	862 046	834 275	-3,2%	18 590	811 157	4 014	514
Overseas	253 945	248 673	-2,1%	6 464	241 262	847	100
Europe	166 610	158 332	-5,0%	3 605	154 220	444	63
Austria	3 419	2 982	-12,8%	50	2 928	4	-
Belgium	5 847	5 741	-1,8%	102	5 620	17	2
Denmark	3 032	2 755	-9,1%	56	2 691	6	2
France	23 352	19 412	-16,9%	343	18 968	97	4
Germany	42 644	40 840	-4,2%	510	40 249	73	8
Ireland	2 841	2 671	-6,0%	117	2 550	3	1
Italy	5 688	4 837	-15,0%	186	4 631	20	-
Portugal	2 912	2 236	-23,2%	69	2 146	19	2
Russian Federation	1 359	1 513	11,3%	65	1 439	9	-
Spain	3 971	3 895	-1,9%	128	3 750	17	-
Sweden	4 233	3 869	-8,6%	95	3 765	9	-
Switzerland	7 326	6 877	-6,1%	92	6 766	19	-
The Netherlands	15 525	15 516	-0,1%	210	15 255	35	16
UK	35 864	37 164	3,6%	1 084	35 981	75	24
Other	8 597	8 024	-6,7%	498	7 481	41	4
North America	36 500	34 393	-5,8%	852	33 407	115	19
Canada	6 850	7 039	2,8%	131	6 890	15	3
USA	29 650	27 354	-7,7%	721	26 517	100	16
Central and South America	9 655	10 423	8,0%	105	10 276	42	-
Argentina	1 248	921	-26,2%	14	906	1	-
Brazil	6 108	7 039	15,2%	47	6 962	30	-
Mexico	370	626	69,2%	20	606	-	-
Other	1 929	1 837	-4,8%	24	1 802	11	-

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

Country of residence	October			Purpose of visit (October 2019)			
	2018	2019	% change 2018–2019	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Australasia	10 094	10 442	3,4%	228	10 192	21	1
Australia	8 758	8 876	1,3%	188	8 668	19	1
New Zealand	1 319	1 551	17,6%	39	1 510	2	-
Other	17	15	-11,8%	1	14	-	-
Middle East	3 142	6 524	107,6%	179	6 271	73	1
Israel	1 750	4 855	177,4%	56	4 790	9	-
Lebanon	238	247	3,8%	49	194	3	1
Saudi Arabia	373	656	75,9%	17	622	17	-
Other	781	766	-1,9%	57	665	44	-
Asia	27 944	28 559	2,2%	1 495	26 896	152	16
China	9 204	7 969	-13,4%	351	7 590	23	5
India	6 532	8 509	30,3%	612	7 830	62	5
Japan	3 591	3 401	-5,3%	112	3 277	12	-
Pakistan	1 166	1 050	-9,9%	48	994	5	3
Philippines	779	677	-13,1%	25	644	5	3
Singapore	561	764	36,2%	35	729	-	-
South Korea	1 517	1 243	-18,1%	56	1 173	14	-
Taiwan	636	964	51,6%	69	892	3	-
Thailand	971	1 042	7,3%	16	1 023	3	-
Vietnam	741	862	16,3%	17	843	2	-
Other	2 246	2 078	-7,5%	154	1 901	23	-
Africa	606 922	584 227	-3,7%	11 992	568 662	3 163	410
SADC	593 052	572 219	-3,5%	10 724	558 473	2 678	344
Angola	4 654	4 325	-7,1%	70	4 115	110	30
Botswana	53 027	51 251	-3,3%	416	50 352	379	104
DRC	2 352	2 266	-3,7%	104	2 021	103	38
Lesotho	130 174	115 027	-11,6%	1 219	113 071	736	1

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

Country of residence	October			Purpose of visit (October 2019)			
	2018	2019	% change 2018–2019	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Madagascar	160	325	103,1%	11	304	10	-
Malawi	17 654	17 087	-3,2%	196	16 830	54	7
Mauritius	1 627	2 028	24,6%	73	1 938	11	6
Mozambique	106 964	105 046	-1,8%	2 988	101 915	112	31
Namibia	16 533	13 244	-19,9%	2 260	10 659	291	34
Seychelles	654	401	-38,7%	10	387	2	2
Swaziland	73 659	75 315	2,2%	167	74 854	282	12
Tanzania	3 017	3 225	6,9%	109	3 054	50	12
Zambia	13 261	11 979	-9,7%	1 316	10 543	97	23
Zimbabwe	169 316	170 700	0,8%	1 785	168 430	441	44
'Other' African	13 870	12 008	-13,4%	1 268	10 189	485	66
East and Central Africa	5 470	5 614	2,6%	713	4 657	202	42
Burundi	56	84	50,0%	12	67	2	3
Cameroon	405	394	-2,7%	43	315	23	13
Central African Republic	5	12	140,0%	2	10	-	-
Chad	23	36	56,5%	2	31	2	1
Comoros	21	32	52,4%	8	23	-	1
Congo	174	154	-11,5%	9	124	20	1
Djibouti	8	7	-12,5%	1	6	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	28	48	71,4%	16	31	-	1
Eritrea	35	39	11,4%	1	38	-	-
Ethiopia	720	545	-24,3%	62	458	22	3
Gabon	345	347	0,6%	5	317	25	-
Kenya	2 470	2 308	-6,6%	368	1 854	72	14
Réunion	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rwanda	72	101	40,3%	22	74	4	1
São Tomé and Príncipe	7	27	285,7%	1	26	-	-
Somalia	209	80	-61,7%	11	69	-	-
Uganda	890	1 400	57,3%	150	1 214	32	4

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

Country of residence	October			Purpose of visit (October 2019)			
	2018	2019	% change 2018–2019	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
West Africa	7 095	5 063	-28,6%	370	4 453	218	22
Benin	128	131	2,3%	4	124	2	1
Burkina Faso	48	85	77,1%	16	66	3	-
Cape Verde Island	43	30	-30,2%	2	28	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	229	212	-7,4%	35	166	8	3
Gambia	23	46	100,0%	7	36	1	2
Ghana	1 756	1 477	-15,9%	122	1 310	43	2
Guinea	100	102	2,0%	10	86	4	2
Guinea-Bissau	5	17	240,0%	4	13	-	-
Liberia	57	62	8,8%	11	50	1	-
Mali	102	140	37,3%	12	123	5	-
Mauritania	11	21	90,9%	2	19	-	-
Niger	17	23	35,3%	2	21	-	-
Nigeria	4 271	2 376	-44,4%	103	2 119	146	8
Saint Helena	13	4	-69,2%	-	4	-	-
Senegal	197	203	3,0%	30	169	3	1
Sierra Leone	53	85	60,4%	4	76	2	3
Togo	42	49	16,7%	6	43	-	-
North Africa	1 305	1 331	2,0%	185	1 079	65	2
Algeria	103	136	32,0%	20	110	6	-
Egypt	646	628	-2,8%	96	506	25	1
Libya	69	62	-10,1%	2	48	12	-
Morocco	172	153	-11,0%	27	123	3	-
South Sudan	45	109	142,2%	18	88	2	1
The Sudan	180	162	-10,0%	11	134	17	-
Tunisia	90	80	-11,1%	11	69	-	-
Western Sahara	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Unspecified	1 179	1 375	16,6%	134	1 233	4	4

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

Sex	Age group	October		Region (October 2019)			
		2018	2019	Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	862 046	834 275	248 673	572 219	12 008	1 375
	0-14	36 810	36 116	15 364	20 448	301	3
	15-24	70 072	62 721	14 289	47 777	625	30
	25-34	232 299	223 183	45 805	173 910	3 268	200
	35-44	229 442	226 396	37 777	184 120	4 074	425
	45-54	140 295	137 207	43 947	90 508	2 346	406
	55-64	93 211	90 315	49 691	39 306	1 035	283
	65+	59 917	58 337	41 800	16 150	359	28
Male	Total	476 734	460 958	127 991	324 432	7 681	854
	0-14	18 421	18 056	7 858	10 051	146	1
	15-24	36 108	32 604	6 312	25 920	349	23
	25-34	128 066	122 853	22 338	98 446	1 946	123
	35-44	138 817	135 375	21 790	110 629	2 701	255
	45-54	79 100	77 903	23 842	52 198	1 616	247
	55-64	47 051	45 582	24 735	19 964	701	182
	65+	29 171	28 585	21 116	7 224	222	23
Female	Total	385 312	373 317	120 682	247 787	4 327	521
	0-14	18 389	18 060	7 506	10 397	155	2
	15-24	33 964	30 117	7 977	21 857	276	7
	25-34	104 233	100 330	23 467	75 464	1 322	77
	35-44	90 625	91 021	15 987	73 491	1 373	170
	45-54	61 195	59 304	20 105	38 310	730	159
	55-64	46 160	44 733	24 956	19 342	334	101
	65+	30 746	29 752	20 684	8 926	137	5

4. Annexures

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

Country of residence	Jan – Oct 2018	Jan – Oct 2019	Difference between Jan – Oct 2018 and Jan – Oct 2019	% change between Jan – Oct 2018 and Jan – Oct 2019
Total	8 589 778	8 397 018	-192 760	-2,2%
Overseas	2 156 206	2 108 227	-47 979	-2,2%
Europe	1 279 983	1 228 413	-51 570	-4,0%
Austria	22 726	23 215	489	2,2%
Belgium	46 010	43 655	-2 355	-5,1%
Denmark	22 806	20 069	-2 737	-12,0%
France	152 498	136 147	-16 351	-10,7%
Germany	267 050	247 806	-19 244	-7,2%
Ireland	24 264	23 513	-751	-3,1%
Italy	52 435	53 808	1 373	2,6%
Norway	14 879	13 366	-1 513	-10,2%
Portugal	25 556	24 056	-1 500	-5,9%
Spain	35 172	35 505	333	0,9%
Sweden	33 944	29 742	-4 202	-12,4%
Switzerland	44 657	42 349	-2 308	-5,2%
The Netherlands	117 124	116 343	-781	-0,7%
UK	341 020	342 864	1 844	0,5%
Other	79 842	75 975	-3 867	-4,8%
North America	368 804	367 417	-1 387	-0,4%
Canada	53 847	53 906	59	0,1%
USA	314 957	313 511	-1 446	-0,5%
Central and South America	96 679	97 670	991	1,0%
Argentina	16 642	13 716	-2 926	-17,6%
Brazil	57 837	60 996	3 159	5,5%
Chile	5 882	5 139	-743	-12,6%
Other	16 318	17 819	1 501	9,2%

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

Country of residence	Jan – Oct 2018	Jan – Oct 2019	Difference between Jan – Oct 2018 and Jan – Oct 2019	% change between Jan – Oct 2018 and Jan – Oct 2019
Australasia	108 329	103 718	-4 611	-4,3%
Australia	95 884	91 165	-4 719	-4,9%
New Zealand	12 234	12 321	87	0,7%
Other	211	232	21	10,0%
Middle East	42 259	47 285	5 026	11,9%
Israel	21 558	24 321	2 763	12,8%
Saudi Arabia	7 167	9 459	2 292	32,0%
United Arab Emirates	2 218	2 693	475	21,4%
Other	11 316	10 812	-504	-4,5%
Asia	260 152	263 724	3 572	1,4%
China	81 956	78 790	-3 166	-3,9%
India	77 090	81 316	4 226	5,5%
Japan	23 662	24 147	485	2,0%
Malaysia	6 198	8 010	1 812	29,2%
Pakistan	12 425	11 578	-847	-6,8%
Philippines	6 111	6 499	388	6,3%
Singapore	7 076	7 931	855	12,1%
South Korea	18 795	17 034	-1 761	-9,4%
Taiwan	4 768	6 200	1 432	30,0%
Thailand	6 672	6 815	143	2,1%
Other	15 399	15 404	5	0,0%
Africa	6 422 778	6 276 243	-146 535	-2,3%
SADC	6 279 337	6 142 786	-136 551	-2,2%
Angola	52 917	52 160	-757	-1,4%
Botswana	541 395	524 653	-16 742	-3,1%
DRC	28 083	27 102	-981	-3,5%
Lesotho	1 484 941	1 315 471	-169 470	-11,4%

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

Country of residence	Jan – Oct 2018	Jan – Oct 2019	Difference between Jan – Oct 2018 and Jan – Oct 2019	% change between Jan – Oct 2018 and Jan – Oct 2019
Madagascar	2 118	2 383	265	12,5%
Malawi	163 892	163 388	-504	-0,3%
Mauritius	15 489	17 387	1 898	12,3%
Mozambique	1 134 559	1 109 950	-24 609	-2,2%
Namibia	159 478	147 816	-11 662	-7,3%
Seychelles	4 457	4 209	-248	-5,6%
Swaziland	720 496	754 300	33 804	4,7%
Tanzania	29 227	31 018	1 791	6,1%
Zambia	136 243	125 063	-11 180	-8,2%
Zimbabwe	1 806 042	1 867 886	61 844	3,4%
'Other' African	143 441	133 457	-9 984	-7,0%
East and Central Africa	58 291	59 070	779	1,3%
Burundi	664	794	130	19,6%
Cameroon	4 245	4 191	-54	-1,3%
Central African Republic	135	133	-2	-1,5%
Chad	280	317	37	13,2%
Comoros	255	301	46	18,0%
Congo	2 234	2 042	-192	-8,6%
Djibouti	84	82	-2	-2,4%
Equatorial Guinea	301	390	89	29,6%
Eritrea	559	556	-3	-0,5%
Ethiopia	7 755	5 652	-2 103	-27,1%
Gabon	5 373	5 278	-95	-1,8%
Kenya	22 929	24 454	1 525	6,7%
Réunion	17	11	-6	-35,3%
Rwanda	836	938	102	12,2%
São Tomé and Príncipe	95	86	-9	-9,5%
Somalia	1 183	1 676	493	41,7%
Uganda	11 346	12 169	823	7,3%

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

Country of residence	Jan – Oct 2018	Jan – Oct 2019	Difference between Jan – Oct 2018 and Jan – Oct 2019	% change between Jan – Oct 2018 and Jan – Oct 2019
West Africa	72 231	60 651	-11 580	-16,0%
Benin	1 242	1 493	251	20,2%
Burkina Faso	591	658	67	11,3%
Cape Verde Island	303	307	4	1,3%
Côte d'Ivoire	2 246	2 353	107	4,8%
Gambia	429	350	-79	-18,4%
Ghana	17 014	15 359	-1 655	-9,7%
Guinea	1 296	1 070	-226	-17,4%
Guinea-Bissau	126	110	-16	-12,7%
Liberia	546	604	58	10,6%
Mali	1 196	957	-239	-20,0%
Mauritania	172	184	12	7,0%
Niger	257	270	13	5,1%
Nigeria	43 686	33 836	-9 850	-22,5%
Saint Helena	117	80	-37	-31,6%
Senegal	1 983	1 795	-188	-9,5%
Sierra Leone	522	666	144	27,6%
Togo	505	559	54	10,7%
North Africa	12 919	13 736	817	6,3%
Algeria	853	1 292	439	51,5%
Egypt	6 382	6 690	308	4,8%
Libya	708	676	-32	-4,5%
Morocco	1 577	1 722	145	9,2%
South Sudan	678	789	111	16,4%
The Sudan	1 838	1 504	-334	-18,2%
Tunisia	862	1 051	189	21,9%
Western Sahara	21	12	-9	-42,9%
Unspecified	10 794	12 548	1 754	16,2%

5. Explanatory notes

NOTE TO USERS

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) has made changes in the *Tourism and Migration* statistical release starting from the January 2014 statistics. 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 October 2019, the DHA data was 0,8% 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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