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Preface

This monthly statistical release provides information on South African residents and foreign travellers who entered or left South Africa in January 2025. Specific focus is on foreign tourists who entered the country in January 2025. 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.

The March, June, September and December releases include summaries of the number of tourists for the current quarter and comparisons with previous periods.

NB: Users are advised that some of the ports of entry/exit are missing data due to lack of network coverage at those ports; however, the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) is addressing this problem. Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) is constantly in communication with the department and more ports of entry/exit will have data and thus improve coverage.

1. Highlights of the results

In January 2025, 3 088 791 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) entered and exited South Africa. They were made up of 813 535 (26,3%) South African residents and 2 275 256 (73,7%) foreign travellers. A total of 1 310 377 foreign arrivals was made up of 35 747 (2,7%) non-visitors and 1 274 630 (97,3%) visitors. Visitors consisted of 260 646 (20,4%) same-day visitors and 1 013 984 (79,6%) overnight visitors (tourists).

Tourists

Overseas tourists constituted 20,8% (210 709) of all tourists. United Kingdom (UK) (45 363), Germany (31 295) and United States of America (USA) (25 406) contributed 48,4% to overseas tourists. Tourists from Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries constituted 77,7% (787 560) of all tourists. Zimbabwe (273 084), Mozambique (182 768) and Lesotho (176 550) contributed 80,3% to SADC tourists. 'Other' African countries (non-SADC) tourists were 1,5% (14 921) of all tourists. Kenya (3 846), Ghana (3 088) and Nigeria (2 207) contributed 61,3% to 'other' African tourists. The country of residence of 794 (0,1%) tourists was classified as unspecified.

Purpose of visit

'Holiday'¹ continues to be the main purpose of visit. About 97,5% of all the tourists were in South Africa for holiday purposes.



Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

¹ The holiday category includes tourists who came for vacation, visiting friends and relatives, shopping and other personal reasons such as attending weddings.

2. Key findings

2.1 Travellers

2.1.1 Number of travellers

The routine data collected by the DHA immigration officers at the ports of entry into and out of South Africa shows that a total of 3 088 791 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports in January 2025. As presented in Table 1 below, these travellers were made up of 813 535 South African residents and 2 275 256 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 470 486 arrivals, 342 632 departures and 417 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 1 310 377, 934 182 and 30 697 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in December 2024 and January 2025 indicates that the volume of arrivals increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. In contrast, the volume of departures and transits decreased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 0,6% (from 467 578 in December 2024 to 470 486 in January 2025). Departures decreased by 39,7% (from 568 257 in December 2024 to 342 632 in January 2025) and transits decreased by 21,5% (from 531 in December 2024 to 417 in January 2025). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 7,8% (from 1 215 250 in December 2024 to 1 310 377 in January 2025), departures decreased by 19,0% (from 1 152 618 in December 2024 to 934 182 in January 2025), and transits decreased by 7,4% (from 33 142 in December 2024 to 30 697 in January 2025).

A comparison between the movements in January 2024 and January 2025 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and transits decreased for South African residents but increased for foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 8,3% (from 513 276 in January 2024 to 470 486 in January 2025), departures decreased by 4,1% (from 357 249 in January 2024 to 342 632 in January 2025) and transits decreased by 17,8% (from 507 in January 2024 to 417 in January 2025). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 4,6% (from 1 253 216 in January 2024 to 1 310 377 in January 2025), departures increased by 6,3% (from 879 052 in January 2024 to 934 182 in January 2025) and transits increased by 1,9% (from 30 131 in January 2024 to 30 697 in January 2025).

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

Travel Direction	January 2024	December 2024	January 2025	% Change Dec 2024 – Jan 2025	% Change Jan 2024 – Jan 2025
Total	3 033 431	3 437 376	3 088 791	-10,1%	1,8%
South African residents	871 032	1 036 366	813 535	-21,5%	-6,6%
Arrivals	513 276	467 578	470 486	0,6%	-8,3%
Departures	357 249	568 257	342 632	-39,7%	-4,1%
Transits	507	531	417	-21,5%	-17,8%
Foreign travellers	2 162 399	2 401 010	2 275 256	-5,2%	5,2%
Arrivals	1 253 216	1 215 250	1 310 377	7,8%	4,6%
Departures	879 052	1 152 618	934 182	-19,0%	6,3%
Transits	30 131	33 142	30 697	-7,4%	1,9%

2.1.2 Mode of travel of travellers

Information presented in Table 2 below shows the number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction and mode of travel. In January 2025, road was the most common mode of travel used by 2 020 021 (65,4%) of the 3 088 791 travellers. The total number of air travellers was 1 030 313 (33,4%). Compared to air and road, a smaller number of travellers, 38 457 (1,2%) used sea into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 224 380 (47,7%) came by air, 232 402 (49,4%) came by road and 13 704 (2,9%) arrived by sea. For departures, 165 060 (48,2%) used air, 164 105 (47,9%) used road and 13 467 (3,9%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 417 (100,0%) used air.

In the case of foreign travellers, 289 975 (22,1%) arrived by air, 1 017 594 (77,7%) came by road and 2 808 (0,2%) arrived by sea. When departing South Africa, 319 784 (34,2%) foreign travellers left by air, 605 920 (64,9%) left by road and 8 478 (0,9%) left by sea. Of all travellers in transit, 30 697 (100,0%) used air.

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	3 088 791	323 050	29 191	675 971	2 101	1 030 313	2 020 021	38 457
South African residents	813 535	77 962	20 194	290 342	1 359	389 857	396 507	27 171
Arrivals	470 486	45 977	11 261	166 610	532	224 380	232 402	13 704
Departures	342 632	31 975	8 933	123 326	826	165 060	164 105	13 467
Transit	417	10	-	406	1	417	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 275 256	245 088	8 997	385 629	742	640 456	1 623 514	11 286
Arrivals	1 310 377	119 590	3 475	166 503	407	289 975	1 017 594	2 808
Departures	934 182	124 896	5 510	189 043	335	319 784	605 920	8 478
Transit	30 697	602	12	30 083	-	30 697	-	-
Visitors	1 274 630	116 184	2 730	159 411	249	278 574	994 328	1 728
Same-day	260 646	1 112	35	15 336	47	16 530	243 878	238
Overnight/ Tourist	1 013 984	115 072	2 695	144 075	202	262 044	750 450	1 490

2.2 Visitors

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 that South African residents intend to spend or have 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 3 on page 4, in January 2025, 35 747 (2,7%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors, while 1 274 630 (97,3%) were classified as visitors. Visitors were categorised into three groups:

- Arrivals only – comprising of visitors who entered the country in January 2025 but did not depart in January 2025 [627 702 (49,2%)].
- Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in January 2025 and left in January 2025 [315 795 (24,8%)].
- Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in January 2025 [331 133 (26,0%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors/tourists. In January 2025, there were 260 646 (20,4%) same-day visitors and 1 013 984 (79,6%) tourists. Between December 2024 and January 2025, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 2,6% (from 267 630 in December 2024 to 260 646 in January 2025) and that of tourists increased by 10,2% (from 920 147 in December 2024 to 1 013 984 in January 2025). Between January 2024 and January 2025, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 6,5% (from 244 749 in January 2024 to 260 646 in January 2025) whereas that of tourists increased by 4,3% (from 971 846 in January 2024 to 1 013 984 in January 2025).

Table 2 on page 3 further shows that of the 260 646 same-day visitors, a majority, 243 878 (93,6%) arrived in the country by road, 16 530 (6,3%) arrived by air and 238 (0,1%) arrived by sea. Information on tourists shows that 750 450 (74,0%) came by road, 262 044 (25,8%) used air and 1 490 (0,1%) used sea.

Table 3 – Number of visitors by type of visitor

Travel Direction	January 2024	December 2024	January 2025	% Change Dec 2024 – Jan 2025	% Change Jan 2024 – Jan 2025
Foreign arrivals	1 253 216	1 215 250	1 310 377	7,8%	4,6%
Non-visitors	36 621	27 473	35 747	30,1%	-2,4%
Visitors	1 216 595	1 187 777	1 274 630	7,3%	4,8%
Visitors	1 216 595	1 187 777	1 274 630	7,3%	4,8%
Arrivals only	590 447	439 816	627 702	42,7%	6,3%
Single trips	301 591	403 137	315 795	-21,7%	4,7%
Multiple trips	324 557	344 824	331 133	-4,0%	2,0%
Visitors	1 216 595	1 187 777	1 274 630	7,3%	4,8%
Same-day	244 749	267 630	260 646	-2,6%	6,5%
Overnight/Tourists	971 846	920 147	1 013 984	10,2%	4,3%

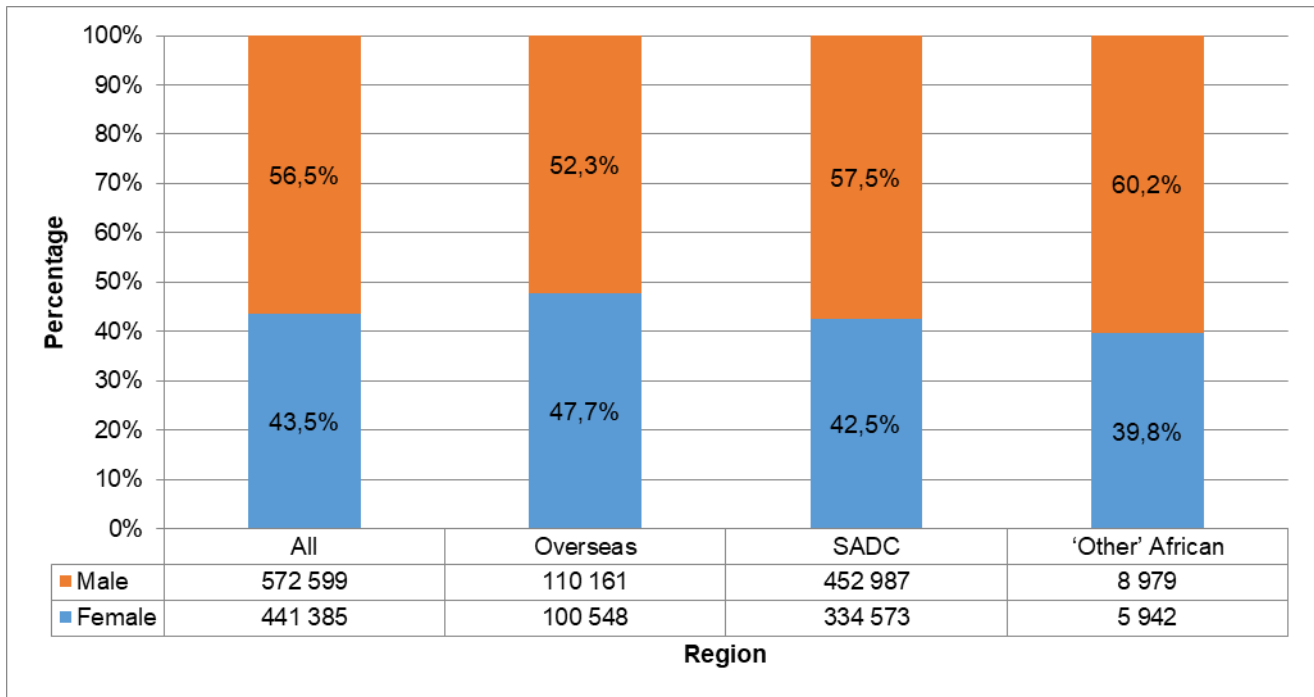
2.3 Tourists

2.3.1 Sex and age distribution of tourists

Sex

Figure 1 on page 5 shows that there were more male [572 599 (56,5%)] than female [441 385 (43,5%)] tourists. Male tourists constituted the majority of tourists for all three regions, SADC countries [452 987 (57,5%)], overseas countries [110 161 (52,3%)] and 'other' African countries [8 979 (60,2%)]. Similarly, the largest portion of female tourists was from SADC countries [334 573 (42,5%)], followed by overseas countries [100 548 (47,7%)] and 'other' African countries [5 942 (39,8%)].

Figure 1 – Percentage distribution of tourists by region of residence and sex, January 2025

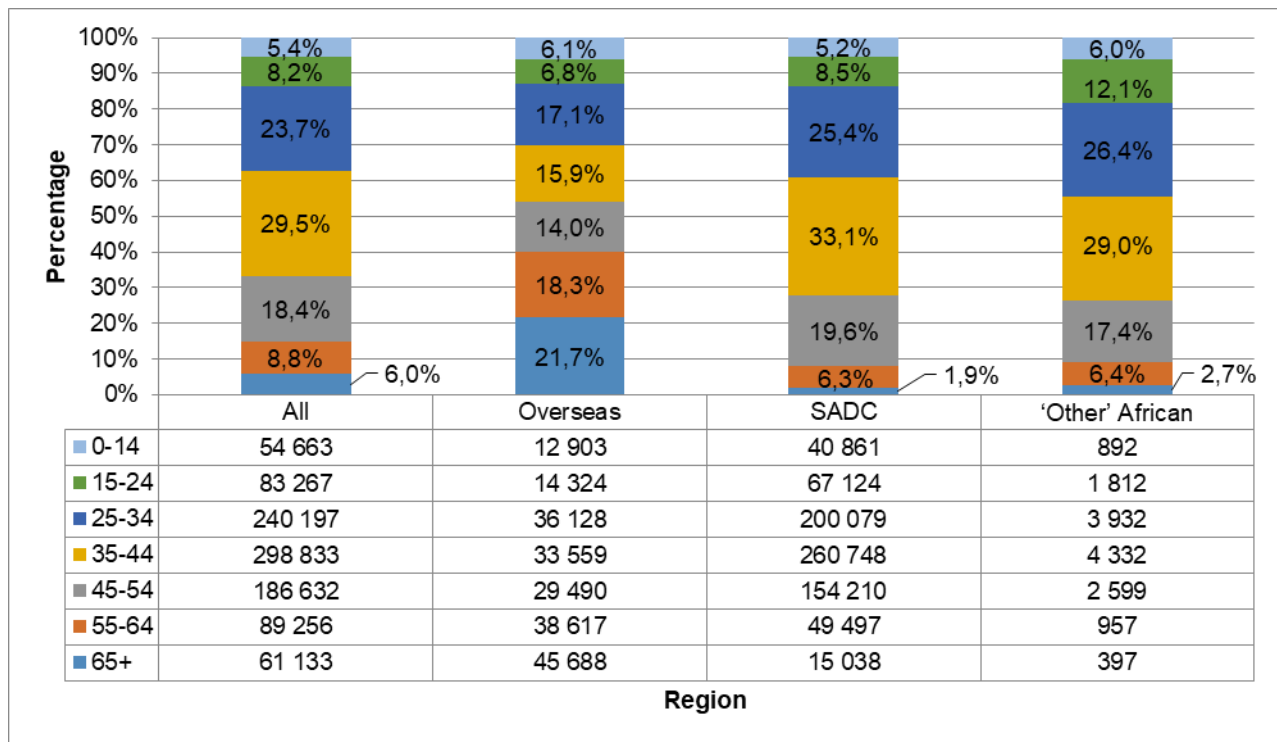


Age

The age distribution indicates that out of all tourists, [5,4% (54 663)] were aged younger than 15; [8,2% (83 267)] were aged between 15 and 24; [23,7% (240 197)] were aged between 25 and 34; [29,5% (298 833)] were aged between 35 and 44; [18,4% (186 632)] were aged between 45 and 54; [8,8% (89 256)] were aged between 55 and 64; [6,0% (61 133)] were aged 65 and older (see Figure 2 on page 6).

Taking the region of residence into consideration, results show that the highest proportion of tourists from SADC countries [33,1% (260 748)] and those from 'other' African countries [29,0% (4 332)] were aged between 35 and 44. In contrast, those from overseas countries [21,7% (45 688)] were aged 65 and older. The second highest proportion of tourists from SADC countries [25,4% (200 079)] and those from 'other' African countries [26,4% (3 932)] were aged between 25 and 34, whereas those from overseas countries [18,3% (38 617)] were aged between 55 and 64. The proportion of tourists aged younger than 15 was higher among tourists from overseas countries, 6,1% (12 903) and those from 'other' African countries, 6,0% (892) compared to those from SADC countries, 5,2% (40 861). The median ages of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African countries were 47, 38 and 36 years, respectively.

Figure 2 – Percentage distribution of tourists by region of residence and age, January 2025

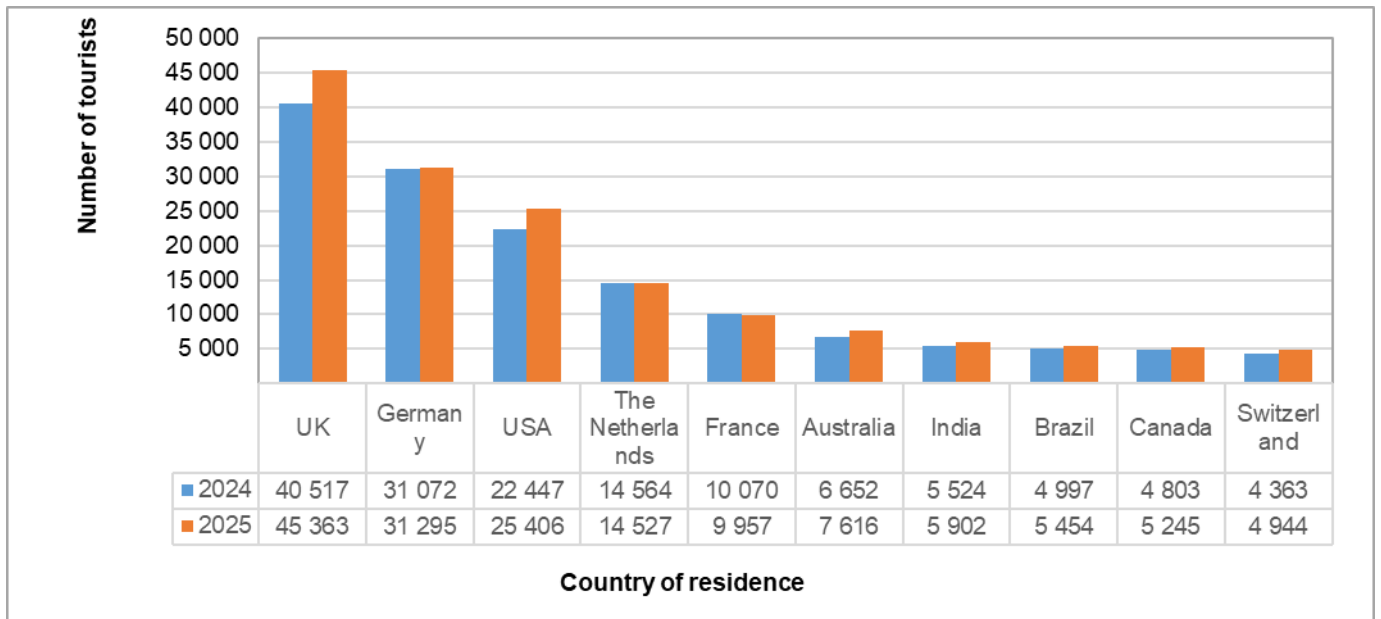


2.3.2 Regional and national distribution of tourists

In January 2025, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 142 786 (67,8%); North America, 30 651 (14,5%); Asia, 17 012 (8,1%); Australasia, 9 068 (4,3%); Central and South America, 8 358 (4,0%) and Middle East, 2 834 (1,3%) (see Table 4 on page 9).

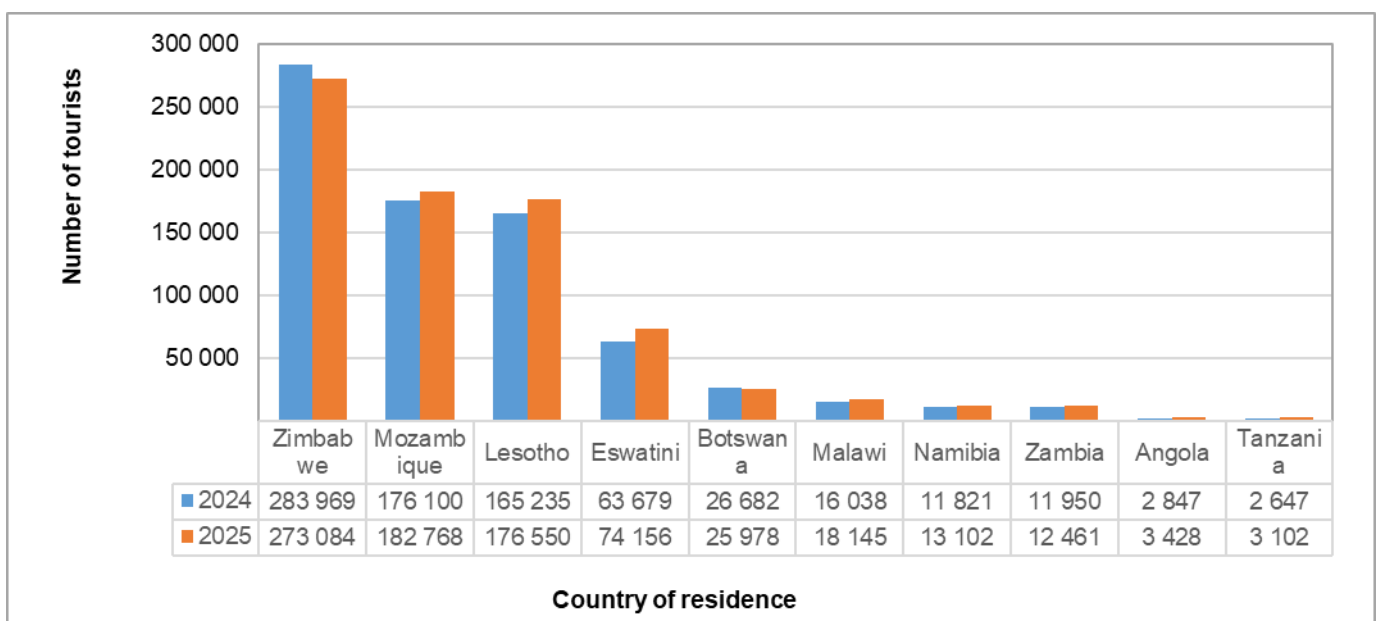
Figure 3 on page 7 indicates that the 10 leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in January 2025 were: UK, 45 363 (21,5%); Germany, 31 295 (14,9%); USA, 25 406 (12,1%); The Netherlands, 14 527 (6,9%); France, 9 957 (4,7%); Australia, 7 616 (3,6%); India, 5 902 (2,8%); Brazil, 5 454 (2,6%); Canada, 5 245 (2,5%) and Switzerland, 4 944 (2,3%). Tourists from these 10 countries constituted 73,9% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the 10 leading countries between January 2024 and January 2025 shows that the number of tourists increased for 8 of 10 leading countries. Australia had the highest increase of 14,5% (from 6 652 tourists in January 2024 to 7 616 tourists in January 2025).

Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the 10 leading overseas countries in January 2024 and January 2025



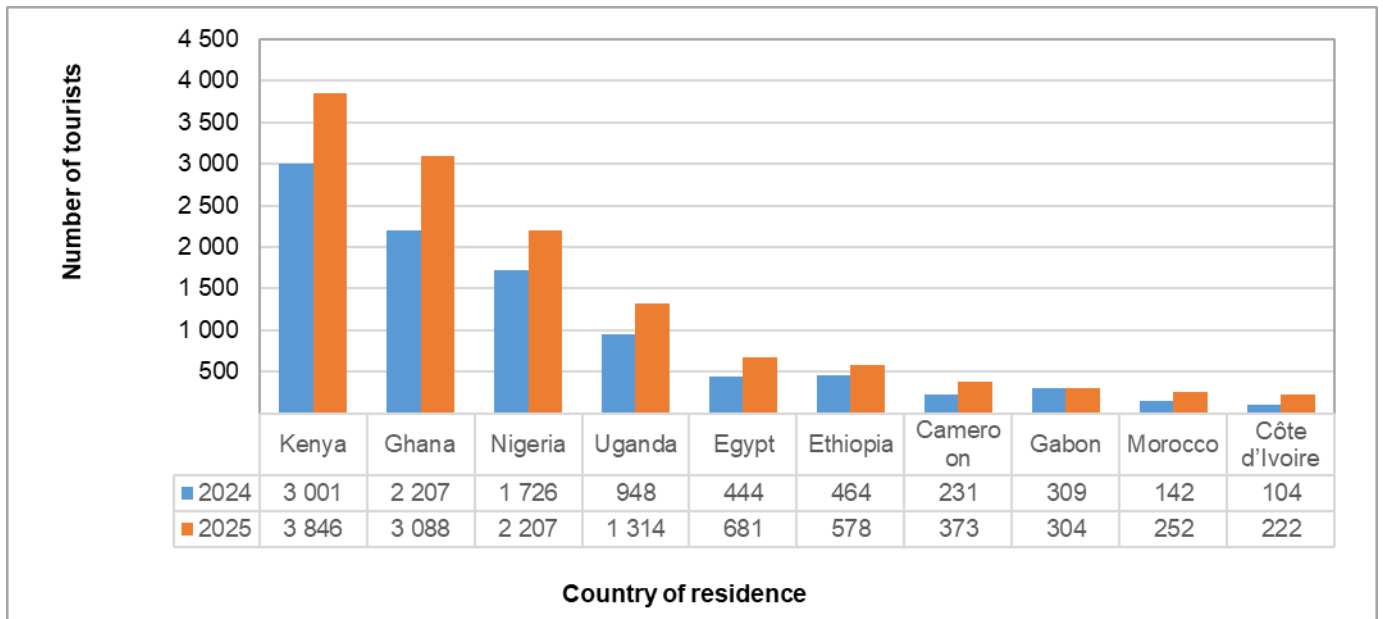
Virtually, most tourists from Africa, 787 560 (98,1%), came from SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa was as follows: East and Central Africa, 7 091 (0,9%); West Africa, 6 363 (0,8%) and North Africa 1 467 (0,2%). Ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in January 2025 were: Zimbabwe, 273 084 (34,7%); Mozambique, 182 768 (23,2%); Lesotho, 176 550 (22,4%); Eswatini, 74 156 (9,4%); Botswana, 25 978 (3,3%); Malawi, 18 145 (2,3%); Namibia, 13 102 (1,7%); Zambia, 12 461 (1,6%); Angola, 3 428 (0,4%) and Tanzania, 3 102 (0,4%) (see Figure 4 below). Tourists from these 10 countries constituted 99,4% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison of movements in the 10 leading countries between January 2024 and January 2025 shows that the number of tourists increased for 8 of the 10 leading countries. Angola showed the highest increase of 20,4% (from 2 847 tourists in January 2024 to 3 428 tourists in January 2025).

Figure 4 – Number of tourists from the 10 leading SADC countries in January 2024 and January 2025



The 10 leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in January 2025 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 5 below, were: Kenya, 3 846 (25,8%); Ghana, 3 088 (20,7%); Nigeria, 2 207 (14,8%); Uganda, 1 314 (8,8%); Egypt, 681 (4,6%); Ethiopia, 578 (3,9%); Cameroon, 373 (2,5%); Gabon, 304 (2,0%); Morocco, 252 (1,7%) and Côte d'Ivoire, 222 (1,5%). Tourists from these 10 countries constituted 86,2% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in January 2024 and January 2025 shows that the number of tourists increased for 9 of 10 leading countries. Côte d'Ivoire showed the highest increase of 113,5% (from 104 tourists in January 2024 to 222 tourists in January 2025).

Figure 5 – Number of tourists from the 10 leading 'other' African countries in January 2024 and January 2025



2.3.3 Purpose of visit of tourists

Table 4 on page 9, shows the number of tourists by region and sub-region. Detailed data on the country of residence and purpose of visit is presented in Annexure C on pages 19 to 22. It is observed that in January 2025, the majority of tourists, 988 932 (97,5%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 17 655 (1,7%); 7 147 (0,7%) and 250 (less than 0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and medical treatment respectively.

Within the overseas regions, Australasia, 99,3% (9 009) had the highest proportion of tourists who came for holiday followed by Central and South America, 98,5% (8 235); Europe, 98,4% (140 512); North America, 97,9% (29 995); Middle East, 95,3% (2 700) and Asia, 93,5% (15 906).

Asia, 3,2% (544) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for business, followed by Middle East, 2,0% (57); North America, 1,5% (445); Europe, 1,1% (1 570); Central and South America, 0,8% (69) and Australasia, 0,4% (40).

Asia, 3,3% (555) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to study, followed by Middle East, 2,7% (76); North America, 0,7% (202); Central and South America, 0,6% (53); Europe, 0,5% (679) and Australasia, 0,2% (19).

Europe (25), North America (9), Asia (7), Middle East (1) and Central and South America (1) had less than 0,1% of medical treatment tourists, whereas Australasia had none.

Majority of African tourists, 781 828 (97,4%) 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 97,6% (768 434) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 89,8% (13 394) from 'other' African countries. Information on the regions of 'other' African countries shows that 90,9% (5 784) of tourists from West Africa were on holiday, followed by tourists from East and Central Africa, 89,3% (6 331) and those from North Africa, 87,2% (1 279).
- Business persons constituted 1,8% (14 492) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 2,6% (391) from 'other' African countries. North Africa, 5,6% (82) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes, followed by East and Central Africa, 2,3% (165) and West Africa, 2,3% (144).
- Students constituted 0,6% (4 468) of tourists from SADC countries compared with 7,3% (1 095) from 'other' African countries. East and Central Africa, 8,0% (564) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes, followed by North Africa, 7,1% (104) and West Africa, 6,7% (427).
- Tourists who came for medical treatment constituted less than 0,1% (166) of tourists from SADC countries, while those from 'other' African countries constituted 0,3% (41). East and Central Africa, 0,4% (31) had the highest proportion of tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by North Africa, 0,1% (2) and West Africa, 0,1% (8).

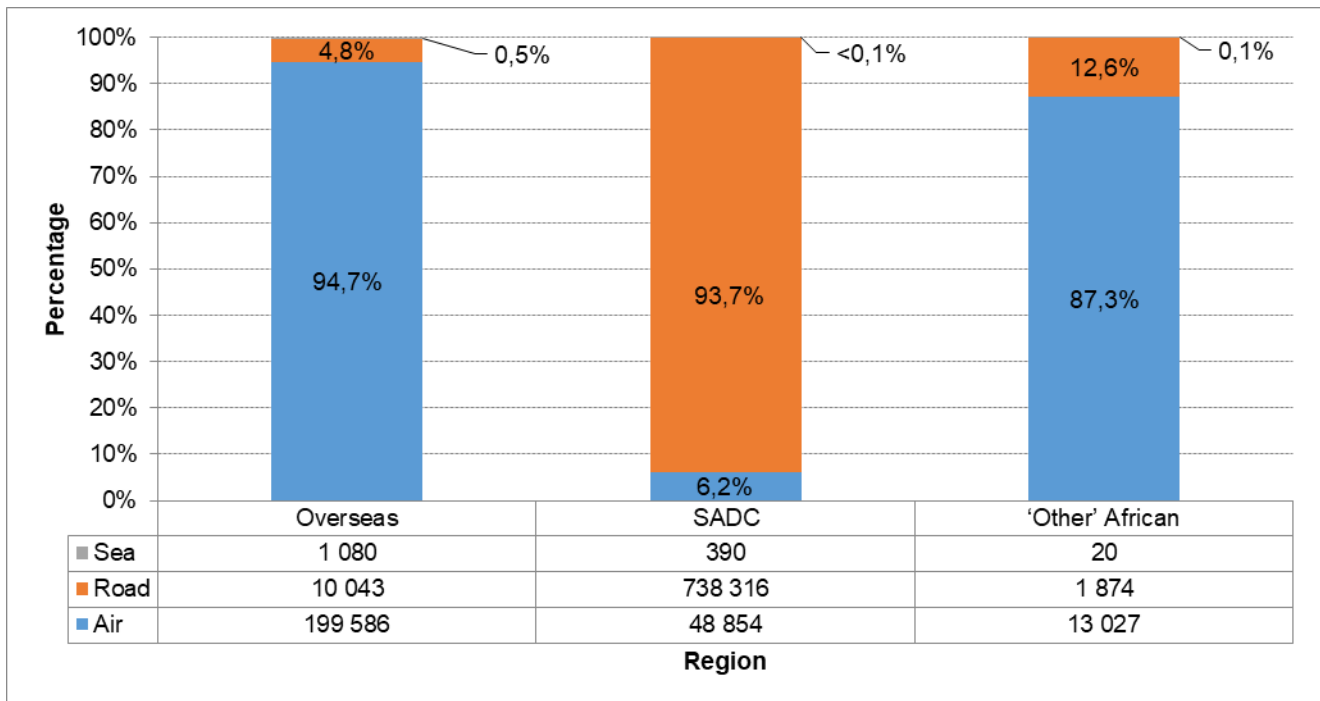
Table 4 – Number of tourists by region of residence and purpose of visit

Region of residence	January 2025	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Total	1 013 984	17 655	988 932	7 147	250
Overseas	210 709	2 725	206 357	1 584	43
Europe	142 786	1 570	140 512	679	25
North America	30 651	445	29 995	202	9
Central and South America	8 358	69	8 235	53	1
Australasia	9 068	40	9 009	19	-
Middle East	2 834	57	2 700	76	1
Asia	17 012	544	15 906	555	7
Africa	802 481	14 883	781 828	5 563	207
SADC	787 560	14 492	768 434	4 468	166
Other' African	14 921	391	13 394	1 095	41
East and Central Africa	7 091	165	6 331	564	31
West Africa	6 363	144	5 784	427	8
North Africa	1 467	82	1 279	104	2
Unspecified	794	47	747	-	-

2.3.4 Mode of travel of tourists

Tourists are categorised by their countries of residence 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 Annexure B on pages 15 to 18, whereas the port of entry used by tourists is provided in Annexure D on page 23. As shown in Figure 6 below, 199 586 (94,7%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 10 043 (4,8%) came in by road and 1 080 (0,5%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the SADC countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 738 316 (93,7%), 48 854 (6,2%) came by air and 390 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 13 027 (87,3%); while 1 874 (12,6%) used road transport and 20 (0,1%) preferred sea. Most tourists who arrived by road came through Beit Bridge port (237 063) and Lebombo port (169 813). The majority of tourists who came by air entered through OR Tambo International Airport (144 075) and Cape Town International Airport (115 072). Tourists who arrived by sea came through Durban Harbour (1 318) and Cape Town Harbour (172).

Figure 6 – Percentage distribution of tourists by region of residence and mode of travel, January 2025



3. Annexures

3.1 Annexure A – Number of tourists' difference between January 2024 and January 2025 by country of residence

Country of residence	January 2024	January 2025	Difference between January 2024 and January 2025	% change between January 2024 and January 2025
Total	971 846	1 013 984	42 138	4,3%
Overseas	195 423	210 709	15 286	7,8%
Europe	135 368	142 786	7 418	5,5%
Austria	2 571	2 494	-77	-3,0%
Belgium	3 799	4 015	216	5,7%
Denmark	2 212	2 548	336	15,2%
France	10 070	9 957	-113	-1,1%
Germany	31 072	31 295	223	0,7%
Ireland	3 108	3 129	21	0,7%
Italy	3 475	3 462	-13	-0,4%
Norway	1 442	1 851	409	28,4%
Russian Federation	2 884	3 913	1 029	35,7%
Sweden	3 591	4 049	458	12,8%
Switzerland	4 363	4 944	581	13,3%
The Netherlands	14 564	14 527	-37	-0,3%
Turkey	2 045	2 008	-37	-1,8%
UK	40 517	45 363	4 846	12,0%
Other	9 655	9 231	-424	-4,4%
North America	27 250	30 651	3 401	12,5%
Canada	4 803	5 245	442	9,2%
USA	22 447	25 406	2 959	13,2%
Central and South America	7 149	8 358	1 209	16,9%
Argentina	723	1 099	376	52,0%
Brazil	4 997	5 454	457	9,1%
Chile	272	370	98	36,0%
Other	1 157	1 435	278	24,0%

Annexure A – Number of tourists' difference between January 2024 and January 2025 by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	January 2024	January 2025	Difference between January 2024 and January 2025	% change between January 2024 and January 2025
Australasia	7 994	9 068	1 074	13,4%
Australia	6 652	7 616	964	14,5%
New Zealand	1 330	1 433	103	7,7%
Other	12	19	7	58,3%
Middle East	2 441	2 834	393	16,1%
Israel	611	714	103	16,9%
Jordan	190	213	23	12,1%
Saudi Arabia	1 047	1 059	12	1,1%
Other	593	848	255	43,0%
Asia	15 221	17 012	1 791	11,8%
Bangladesh	520	504	-16	-3,1%
China	2 780	3 738	958	34,5%
India	5 524	5 902	378	6,8%
Japan	1 021	1 330	309	30,3%
Malaysia	367	408	41	11,2%
Pakistan	1 072	1 310	238	22,2%
Philippines	458	350	-108	-23,6%
Singapore	388	308	-80	-20,6%
South Korea	1 662	1 735	73	4,4%
Taiwan	271	543	272	100,4%
Other	1 158	884	-274	-23,7%
Africa	775 651	802 481	26 830	3,5%
SADC	764 702	787 560	22 858	3,0%
Angola	2 847	3 428	581	20,4%
Botswana	26 682	25 978	-704	-2,6%
DRC	1 740	2 751	1 011	58,1%
Eswatini	63 679	74 156	10 477	16,5%

Annexure A – Number of tourists' difference between January 2024 and January 2025 by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	January 2024	January 2025	Difference between January 2024 and January 2025	% change between January 2024 and January 2025
Lesotho	165 235	176 550	11 315	6,8%
Madagascar	320	264	-56	-17,5%
Malawi	16 038	18 145	2 107	13,1%
Mauritius	1 246	1 379	133	10,7%
Mozambique	176 100	182 768	6 668	3,8%
Namibia	11 821	13 102	1 281	10,8%
Seychelles	428	392	-36	-8,4%
Tanzania	2 647	3 102	455	17,2%
Zambia	11 950	12 461	511	4,3%
Zimbabwe	283 969	273 084	-10 885	-3,8%
'Other' African	10 949	14 921	3 972	36,3%
East and Central Africa	5 446	7 091	1 645	30,2%
Burundi	96	95	-1	-1,0%
Cameroon	231	373	142	61,5%
Central African Republic	10	18	8	80,0%
Chad	31	53	22	71,0%
Comoros	17	30	13	76,5%
Congo	89	215	126	141,6%
Djibouti	9	10	1	11,1%
Equatorial Guinea	23	37	14	60,9%
Eritrea	46	41	-5	-10,9%
Ethiopia	464	578	114	24,6%
Gabon	309	304	-5	-1,6%
Kenya	3 001	3 846	845	28,2%
Réunion	20	6	-14	-70,0%
Rwanda	91	88	-3	-3,3%
São Tomé and Príncipe	5	18	13	260,0%
Somalia	56	65	9	16,1%
Uganda	948	1 314	366	38,6%

Annexure A – Number of tourists' difference between January 2024 and January 2025 by country of residence (concluded)

Country of residence	January 2024	January 2025	Difference between January 2024 and January 2025	% change between January 2024 and January 2025
West Africa	4 581	6 363	1 782	38,9%
Benin	121	148	27	22,3%
Burkina Faso	28	51	23	82,1%
Cape Verde Island	14	33	19	135,7%
Côte d'Ivoire	104	222	118	113,5%
Gambia	28	31	3	10,7%
Ghana	2 207	3 088	881	39,9%
Guinea	101	104	3	3,0%
Guinea-Bissau	6	22	16	266,7%
Liberia	24	70	46	191,7%
Mali	56	127	71	126,8%
Mauritania	12	26	14	116,7%
Niger	25	28	3	12,0%
Nigeria	1 726	2 207	481	27,9%
Saint Helena	5	2	-3	-60,0%
Senegal	81	112	31	38,3%
Sierra Leone	26	50	24	92,3%
Togo	17	42	25	147,1%
North Africa	922	1 467	545	59,1%
Algeria	53	153	100	188,7%
Egypt	444	681	237	53,4%
Libya	70	52	-18	-25,7%
Morocco	142	252	110	77,5%
South Sudan	55	53	-2	-3,6%
The Sudan	65	104	39	60,0%
Tunisia	90	170	80	88,9%
Western Sahara	3	2	-1	-33,3%
Unspecified	772	794	22	2,8%

3.2 Annexure B – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, January 2025

Country of residence	January 2025	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	1 013 984	115 072	2 695	144 075	202	262 044	750 450	1 490
Overseas	210 709	105 604	1 946	91 913	123	199 586	10 043	1 080
Europe	142 786	82 293	1 278	52 566	80	136 217	5 954	615
Austria	2 494	1 582	31	796	-	2 409	81	4
Belgium	4 015	2 158	19	1 635	-	3 812	193	10
Denmark	2 548	934	28	1 484	1	2 447	93	8
France	9 957	3 739	32	5 372	10	9 153	798	6
Germany	31 295	21 147	178	8 745	12	30 082	1 058	155
Ireland	3 129	1 928	44	1 049	2	3 023	100	6
Italy	3 462	1 752	42	1 477	2	3 273	176	13
Norway	1 851	1 016	32	737	-	1 785	62	4
Russian Federation	3 913	2 127	24	1 528	2	3 681	184	48
Sweden	4 049	2 166	77	1 625	-	3 868	178	3
Switzerland	4 944	2 698	35	1 936	2	4 671	255	18
The Netherlands	14 527	9 062	65	4 379	6	13 512	980	35
Turkey	2 008	1 101	48	796	-	1 945	62	1
UK	45 363	26 810	467	16 764	20	44 061	1 033	269
Other	9 231	4 073	156	4 243	23	8 495	701	35
North America	30 651	13 838	150	15 164	16	29 168	1 160	323
Canada	5 245	2 342	24	2 583	1	4 950	274	21
USA	25 406	11 496	126	12 581	15	24 218	886	302
Central and South America	8 358	1 952	14	6 124	1	8 091	250	17
Argentina	1 099	261	1	821	-	1 083	16	-
Brazil	5 454	1 303	3	3 988	-	5 294	147	13
Chile	370	31	-	329	-	360	10	-
Other	1 435	357	10	986	1	1 354	77	4

Annexure B – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, January 2025 (continued)

Country of residence	January 2025	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	9 068	1 586	93	6 948	18	8 645	378	45
Australia	7 616	1 225	57	5 988	17	7 287	290	39
New Zealand	1 433	357	36	946	1	1 340	87	6
Other	19	4	-	14	-	18	1	-
Middle East	2 834	1 622	20	1 127	-	2 769	61	4
Israel	714	223	3	461	-	687	23	4
Jordan	213	89	1	114	-	204	9	-
Saudi Arabia	1 059	854	2	201	-	1 057	2	-
Other	848	456	14	351	-	821	27	-
Asia	17 012	4 313	391	9 984	8	14 696	2 240	76
Bangladesh	504	87	48	245	-	380	124	-
China	3 738	847	33	2 569	4	3 453	250	35
India	5 902	1 082	118	3 714	-	4 914	973	15
Japan	1 330	484	33	737	-	1 254	74	2
Malaysia	408	118	30	239	-	387	21	-
Pakistan	1 310	125	58	634	-	817	485	8
Philippines	350	102	19	176	1	298	38	14
Singapore	308	128	-	174	1	303	5	-
South Korea	1 735	891	19	707	-	1 617	118	-
Taiwan	543	164	5	314	-	483	59	1
Other	884	285	28	475	2	790	93	1
Africa	802 481	9 432	747	51 623	79	61 881	740 190	410
SADC	787 560	7 012	729	41 042	71	48 854	738 316	390
Angola	3 428	1 387	1	1 367	11	2 766	662	-
Botswana	25 978	312	133	2 099	15	2 559	23 388	31
DRC	2 751	69	-	2 456	3	2 528	222	1
Eswatini	74 156	180	76	941	-	1 197	72 934	25

Annexure B – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, January 2025 (continued)

Country of residence	January 2025	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Lesotho	176 550	7	6	473	1	487	175 989	74
Madagascar	264	7	-	243	-	250	14	-
Malawi	18 145	29	7	1 941	1	1 978	16 165	2
Mauritius	1 379	324	3	1 030	-	1 357	21	1
Mozambique	182 768	993	7	4 762	-	5 762	176 828	178
Namibia	13 102	2 004	-	2 053	-	4 057	9 011	34
Seychelles	392	5	-	376	-	381	11	-
Tanzania	3 102	162	1	1 738	-	1 901	1 199	2
Zambia	12 461	113	12	3 697	7	3 829	8 630	2
Zimbabwe	273 084	1 420	483	17 866	33	19 802	253 242	40
'Other' African	14 921	2 420	18	10 581	8	13 027	1 874	20
East and Central Africa	7 091	1 169	7	4 962	3	6 141	947	3
Burundi	95	18	-	70	-	88	7	-
Cameroon	373	61	-	286	-	347	25	1
Central African Republic	18	2	-	16	-	18	-	-
Chad	53	2	-	50	-	52	1	-
Comoros	30	-	-	30	-	30	-	-
Congo	215	33	1	174	-	208	7	-
Djibouti	10	1	-	9	-	10	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	37	2	-	33	-	35	2	-
Eritrea	41	3	-	31	-	34	7	-
Ethiopia	578	84	1	422	1	508	70	-
Gabon	304	31	-	271	-	302	2	-
Kenya	3 846	697	5	2 405	2	3 109	736	1
Réunion	6	6	-	-	-	6	-	-
Rwanda	88	5	-	76	-	81	7	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	18	-	-	17	-	17	-	1
Somalia	65	13	-	38	-	51	14	-
Uganda	1 314	211	-	1 034	-	1 245	69	-

Annexure B – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, January 2025 (concluded)

Country of residence	January 2025	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	6 363	849	7	4 610	4	5 470	876	17
Benin	148	14	-	120	4	138	10	-
Burkina Faso	51	11	-	39	-	50	1	-
Cape Verde Island	33	4	-	26	-	30	3	-
Côte d'Ivoire	222	50	-	167	-	217	5	-
Gambia	31	6	-	23	-	29	2	-
Ghana	3 088	275	1	2 116	-	2 392	679	17
Guinea	104	16	-	68	-	84	20	-
Guinea-Bissau	22	-	-	19	-	19	3	-
Liberia	70	9	-	60	-	69	1	-
Mali	127	22	-	83	-	105	22	-
Mauritania	26	5	-	21	-	26	-	-
Niger	28	5	-	22	-	27	1	-
Nigeria	2 207	394	2	1 694	-	2 090	117	-
Saint Helena	2	1	-	1	-	2	-	-
Senegal	112	21	4	81	-	106	6	-
Sierra Leone	50	6	-	39	-	45	5	-
Togo	42	10	-	31	-	41	1	-
North Africa	1 467	402	4	1 009	1	1 416	51	-
Algeria	153	10	-	141	-	151	2	-
Egypt	681	230	1	431	1	663	18	-
Libya	52	9	-	34	-	43	9	-
Morocco	252	43	1	198	-	242	10	-
South Sudan	53	11	-	41	-	52	1	-
The Sudan	104	36	-	60	-	96	8	-
Tunisia	170	63	2	102	-	167	3	-
Western Sahara	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	-
Unspecified	794	36	2	539	-	577	217	-

3.3 Annexure C – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit, January 2025

Country of residence	January 2025	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical Treatment
Total	1 013 984	17 655	988 932	7 147	250
Overseas	210 709	2 725	206 357	1 584	43
Europe	142 786	1 570	140 512	679	25
Austria	2 494	13	2 468	13	-
Belgium	4 015	44	3 943	28	-
Denmark	2 548	24	2 523	1	-
France	9 957	126	9 731	98	2
Germany	31 295	204	30 928	162	1
Ireland	3 129	32	3 088	7	2
Italy	3 462	85	3 339	36	2
Norway	1 851	24	1 808	19	-
Russian Federation	3 913	25	3 877	11	-
Sweden	4 049	32	3 999	18	-
Switzerland	4 944	29	4 883	32	-
The Netherlands	14 527	116	14 354	51	6
Turkey	2 008	31	1 966	11	-
UK	45 363	623	44 614	117	9
Other	9 231	162	8 991	75	3
North America	30 651	445	29 995	202	9
Canada	5 245	104	5 116	21	4
USA	25 406	341	24 879	181	5
Central and South America	8 358	69	8 235	53	1
Argentina	1 099	4	1 093	1	1
Brazil	5 454	29	5 393	32	-
Chile	370	5	360	5	-
Other	1 435	31	1 389	15	-

Annexure C – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit, January 2025 (continued)

Country of residence	January 2025	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical Treatment
Australasia	9 068	40	9 009	19	-
Australia	7 616	31	7 567	18	-
New Zealand	1 433	7	1 425	1	-
Other	19	2	17	-	-
Middle East	2 834	57	2 700	76	1
Israel	714	7	696	11	-
Jordan	213	4	206	3	-
Saudi Arabia	1 059	6	1 026	27	-
Other	848	40	772	35	1
Asia	17 012	544	15 906	555	7
Bangladesh	504	4	488	12	-
China	3 738	103	3 526	105	4
India	5 902	286	5 359	256	1
Japan	1 330	43	1 262	25	-
Malaysia	408	16	360	32	-
Pakistan	1 310	18	1 262	30	-
Philippines	350	10	333	7	-
Singapore	308	12	295	1	-
South Korea	1 735	13	1 685	37	-
Taiwan	543	9	524	10	-
Other	884	30	812	40	2
Africa	802 481	14 883	781 828	5 563	207
SADC	787 560	14 492	768 434	4 468	166
Angola	3 428	56	3 120	230	22
Botswana	25 978	168	25 269	519	22
DRC	2 751	38	2 413	251	49
Eswatini	74 156	2 235	71 644	276	1

Annexure C – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit, January 2025 (continued)

Country of residence	January 2025	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical Treatment
Lesotho	176 550	1 092	174 560	890	8
Madagascar	264	-	246	18	-
Malawi	18 145	167	17 842	131	5
Mauritius	1 379	15	1 320	42	2
Mozambique	182 768	3 790	178 848	125	5
Namibia	13 102	3 236	9 363	493	10
Seychelles	392	1	388	3	-
Tanzania	3 102	43	2 921	133	5
Zambia	12 461	1 304	11 008	143	6
Zimbabwe	273 084	2 347	269 492	1 214	31
'Other' African	14 921	391	13 394	1 095	41
East and Central Africa	7 091	165	6 331	564	31
Burundi	95	4	77	11	3
Cameroon	373	12	307	49	5
Central African Republic	18	1	17	-	-
Chad	53	-	43	8	2
Comoros	30	-	27	2	1
Congo	215	2	191	19	3
Djibouti	10	-	9	1	-
Equatorial Guinea	37	1	31	5	-
Eritrea	41	-	36	5	-
Ethiopia	578	18	512	44	4
Gabon	304	6	251	44	3
Kenya	3 846	77	3 541	223	5
Réunion	6	-	6	-	-
Rwanda	88	4	80	4	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	18	-	18	-	-
Somalia	65	1	62	2	-
Uganda	1 314	39	1 123	147	5

Annexure C – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit, January 2025 (concluded)

Country of residence	January 2025	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical Treatment
West Africa	6 363	144	5 784	427	8
Benin	148	1	140	3	4
Burkina Faso	51	7	44	-	-
Cape Verde Island	33	1	32	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	222	13	178	31	-
Gambia	31	1	27	3	-
Ghana	3 088	36	3 016	35	1
Guinea	104	6	91	5	2
Guinea-Bissau	22	-	22	-	-
Liberia	70	3	65	2	-
Mali	127	8	117	2	-
Mauritania	26	3	20	3	-
Niger	28	2	23	3	-
Nigeria	2 207	47	1 833	326	1
Saint Helena	2	-	2	-	-
Senegal	112	10	100	2	-
Sierra Leone	50	4	38	8	-
Togo	42	2	36	4	-
North Africa	1 467	82	1 279	104	2
Algeria	153	7	142	4	-
Egypt	681	44	598	37	2
Libya	52	-	42	10	-
Morocco	252	9	229	14	-
South Sudan	53	7	39	7	-
The Sudan	104	5	77	22	-
Tunisia	170	10	150	10	-
Western Sahara	2	-	2	-	-
Unspecified	794	47	747	-	-

3.4 Annexure D – Number of tourists by port of entry and province, January 2025

Port of entry and province	January 2025
Total	1 013 984
Western Cape	115 244
Cape Town Harbour	172
Cape Town International Airport	115 072
Eastern Cape	7 616
Telle Bridge	7 616
Northern Cape	9 041
Nakop	4 200
Violsdrift	4 841
Free State	170 726
Caledonspoort	17 143
Ficksburg	75 429
Maseru Bridge	65 298
Van Rooyens Gate	12 856
KwaZulu Natal	30 470
Durban Harbour	1 318
King Shaka International Airport	2 695
Golela	13 146
Kosibay	13 311
North West	37 760
Kopfontein	22 998
Ramatlabama	6 321
Skilpad Gate	8 441
Gauteng	144 277
Lanseria International Airport	179
OR Tambo International Airport	144 075
Waterkloof Military Airbase	23
Mpumalanga	243 733
Emahlatini	4 743
Jeppes Reef	13 753
Lebombo	169 813
Mahamba	7 989
Mananga	7 013
Nerston	101
Oshoek	40 321
Limpopo	255 117
Beit Bridge	237 063
Groblers Bridge	18 054

4. Explanatory notes

4.1 Introduction

Legal movements across South African borders, as well as legal immigration into South Africa, fall under the jurisdiction of the 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 (in terms of both 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). It is crucial to note that unlike data from census or sample surveys that count individual persons, border statistics by their nature, measure events i.e. movements of persons rather than the physical persons. The reason is that the same person can cross the border several times during a specified time and his or her information is recorded every time he or she passes through the border.

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 OR Tambo International Airport, which has the highest volume of travellers, are compared with passenger statistics from the Airports Company of South Africa (ACSA). As expected, in any specific month, an increase in the volume of passengers reported by ACSA is also reflected in an increase in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. A similar pattern has also been observed when the volume of travellers decreased. In January 2025, the DHA data was 0,3% lower 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.

4.6 Definition of terms

4.6.1 Definitions used by the United Nations Tourism (UN Tourism)

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 12 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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Advance release calendar

An advance release calendar is disseminated at www.statssa.gov.za.

Stats SA products

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