



**stats sa**

Department:  
Statistics South Africa  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa, ISibalo House, Koch Street, Salvokop, Pretoria, 0002  
www.statssa.gov.za, info@statssa.gov.za, Tel +27 12 310 8911

## **STATISTICAL RELEASE**

### **P0350**

# **International tourism**

**January 2026**

Scope: This release is based on information on population movements across South Africa's ports of entry/exit covering the period 1 to 31 January 2026.

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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 2026. Specific focus is on foreign tourists who entered the country in January 2026. 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.

**Note:** Users are advised that some ports of entry and exit are missing data due to a lack of network coverage at those ports; however, the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) is addressing this issue. Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) is in constant communication with the department, and more ports of entry/exit will have data, thereby improving coverage.

## 1. Highlights of the results

In January 2026, 3 373 931 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) entered and exited South Africa. They were made up of 890 850 (26,4%) South African residents and 2 483 081 (73,6%) foreign travellers. Foreign arrivals were made up of 41 965 (2,9%) non-visitors and 1 387 421 (97,1%) visitors. Visitors consisted of 263 888 (18,9%) same-day visitors and 1 133 533 (81,1%) overnight visitors/tourists.

### Tourists

Overseas tourists constituted 20,7% (235 058) of all tourists. United Kingdom (UK) (49 713), Germany (38 306) and United States of America (USA) (24 323) contributed 47,8% to overseas tourists. Tourists from Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries constituted 77,8% (882 023) of all tourists. Zimbabwe (311 225), Mozambique (223 126) and Lesotho (178 529) contributed 80,8% to SADC tourists. 'Other' African countries (non-SADC) tourists were 1,4% (15 738) of all tourists. Kenya (4 376), Ghana (3 280) and Nigeria (3 019) contributed 67,8% to 'other' African tourists. The country of residence of 714 (0,1%) tourists was classified as unspecified.

### Purpose of visit

'Holiday'<sup>1</sup> continues to be the main purpose of visit. About 97,7% of all the tourists were in South Africa for holiday purposes.



**Risenga Maluleke**  
**Statistician-General**

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<sup>1</sup> 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 3 373 931 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports in January 2026. As presented in Table 1 below, these travellers were made up of 890 850 South African residents and 2 483 081 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 528 664 arrivals, 361 592 departures and 594 travellers in transit. The corresponding volumes for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit were 1 439 386, 1 007 203 and 36 492, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in December 2025 and January 2026 indicates that the volume of arrivals increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers while that of departures decreased for both groups. The volume of transits increased for South African residents but decreased for foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 1,7% (from 519 668 in December 2025 to 528 664 in January 2026), departures decreased by 45,9% (from 667 890 in December 2025 to 361 592 in January 2026) and transits increased by 5,9% (from 561 in December 2025 to 594 in January 2026). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 7,5% (from 1 339 217 in December 2025 to 1 439 386 in January 2026), departures decreased by 27,7% (from 1 393 309 in December 2025 to 1 007 203 in January 2026), and transits decreased by 11,9% (from 41 428 in December 2025 to 36 492 in January 2026).

A comparison between the movements in January 2025 and January 2026 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and transits increased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 12,4% (from 470 486 in January 2025 to 528 664 in January 2026), departures increased by 5,5% (from 342 632 in January 2025 to 361 592 in January 2026) and transits increased by 42,4% (from 417 in January 2025 to 594 in January 2026). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 9,8% (from 1 310 377 in January 2025 to 1 439 386 in January 2026), departures increased by 7,8% (from 934 182 in January 2025 to 1 007 203 in January 2026) and transits increased by 18,9% (from 30 697 in January 2025 to 36 492 in January 2026).

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

Travel Direction	January 2025	December 2025	January 2026	% Change Dec 2025 – Jan 2026	% Change Jan 2025 – Jan 2026
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 088 791</b>	<b>3 962 073</b>	<b>3 373 931</b>	<b>-14,8</b>	<b>9,2</b>
<b>South African residents</b>	<b>813 535</b>	<b>1 188 119</b>	<b>890 850</b>	<b>-25,0</b>	<b>9,5</b>
Arrivals	470 486	519 668	528 664	1,7	12,4
Departures	342 632	667 890	361 592	-45,9	5,5
Transits	417	561	594	5,9	42,4
<b>Foreign travellers</b>	<b>2 275 256</b>	<b>2 773 954</b>	<b>2 483 081</b>	<b>-10,5</b>	<b>9,1</b>
Arrivals	1 310 377	1 339 217	1 439 386	7,5	9,8
Departures	934 182	1 393 309	1 007 203	-27,7	7,8
Transits	30 697	41 428	36 492	-11,9	18,9

## 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 2026, road was the most common mode of travel used by 2 217 943 (65,7%) of the 3 373 931 travellers. The total number of air travellers was 1 118 711 (33,2%). Compared to air and road, a smaller number of travellers, 37 277 (1,1%) used sea into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 236 328 (44,7%) came by air, 280 190 (53,0%) came by road and 12 146 (2,3%) preferred sea. For departures, 172 345 (47,7%) used air, 177 436 (49,1%) used road and 11 811 (3,3%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 594 (100,0%) used air.

In the case of foreign travellers, 319 320 (22,2%) arrived by air, 1 109 975 (77,1%) came by road and 10 091 (0,7%) arrived by sea. When departing South Africa, 353 632 (35,1%) foreign travellers left by air, 650 342 (64,6%) left by road and 3 229 (0,3%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 36 492 (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		
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 373 931</b>	<b>354 389</b>	<b>27 299</b>	<b>735 277</b>	<b>1 746</b>	<b>1 118 711</b>	<b>2 217 943</b>	<b>37 277</b>
<b>South African residents</b>	<b>890 850</b>	<b>78 942</b>	<b>19 440</b>	<b>309 726</b>	<b>1 159</b>	<b>409 267</b>	<b>457 626</b>	<b>23 957</b>
Arrivals	<b>528 664</b>	46 394	11 300	178 055	579	<b>236 328</b>	280 190	12 146
Departures	<b>361 592</b>	32 547	8 140	131 078	580	<b>172 345</b>	177 436	11 811
Transit	<b>594</b>	1	-	593	-	<b>594</b>	-	-
<b>Foreign travellers</b>	<b>2 483 081</b>	<b>275 447</b>	<b>7 859</b>	<b>425 551</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>709 444</b>	<b>1 760 317</b>	<b>13 320</b>
Arrivals	<b>1 439 386</b>	134 524	3 332	181 095	369	<b>319 320</b>	1 109 975	10 091
Departures	<b>1 007 203</b>	140 628	4 527	208 259	218	<b>353 632</b>	650 342	3 229
Transit	<b>36 492</b>	295	-	36 197	-	<b>36 492</b>	-	-
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>1 397 421</b>	<b>130 682</b>	<b>2 736</b>	<b>174 183</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>307 882</b>	<b>1 083 642</b>	<b>5 897</b>
Same-day	<b>263 888</b>	1 096	7	18 153	49	<b>19 305</b>	244 294	289
Overnight/ Tourist	<b>1 133 533</b>	129 586	2 729	156 030	232	<b>288 577</b>	839 348	5 608

## 2.2 Visitors

Detailed information on the departure of travellers is not available in the enhanced Movement Control System (eMCS). 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 3 on page 4, in January 2026, 41 965 (2,9%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors, while 1 397 421 (97,1%) were classified as visitors. Visitors were categorised into three groups:

- Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in January 2026 but did not depart in January 2026 [710 181 (50,8%)].
- Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in January 2026 and left in January 2026 [354 858 (25,4%)].
- Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in January 2026 [332 382 (23,8%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors/tourists. In January 2026, there were 263 888 (18,9%) same-day visitors and 1 133 533 (81,1%) tourists. Between December 2025 and January 2026, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 16,6% (from 316 342 in December 2025 to 263 888 in January 2026) and that of tourists increased by 13,7% (from 997 165 in December 2025 to 1 133 533 in January 2026). Between January 2025 and January 2026, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 1,2% (from 260 646 in January 2025 to 263 888 in January 2026) and that of tourists increased by 11,8% (from 1 013 984 in January 2025 to 1 133 533 in January 2026).

Table 2 on page 3 further shows that of the 263 888 same-day visitors, a majority, 244 294 (92,6%) arrived in the country by road, 19 305 (7,3%) arrived by air and 289 (0,1%) preferred sea. Information on tourists shows that 839 348 (74,0%) used road, 288 577 (25,5%) used air and 5 608 (0,5%) used sea.

**Table 3 – Number of visitors by type of visitor**

Travel Direction	January 2025	December 2025	January 2026	% Change Dec 2025 – Jan 2026	% Change Jan 2025 – Jan 2026
<b>Foreign arrivals</b>	<b>1 310 377</b>	<b>1 339 217</b>	<b>1 439 386</b>	<b>7,5</b>	<b>9,8</b>
Non-visitors	35 747	25 710	41 965	63,2	17,4
Visitors	1 274 630	1 313 507	1 397 421	6,4	9,6
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>1 274 630</b>	<b>1 313 507</b>	<b>1 397 421</b>	<b>6,4</b>	<b>9,6</b>
Arrivals only	627 702	433 736	710 181	63,7	13,1
Single trips	315 795	488 992	354 858	-27,4	12,4
Multiple trips	331 133	390 779	332 382	-14,9	0,4
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>1 274 630</b>	<b>1 313 507</b>	<b>1 397 421</b>	<b>6,4</b>	<b>9,6</b>
Same-day	260 646	316 342	263 888	-16,6	1,2
Overnight/Tourists	1 013 984	997 165	1 133 533	13,7	11,8

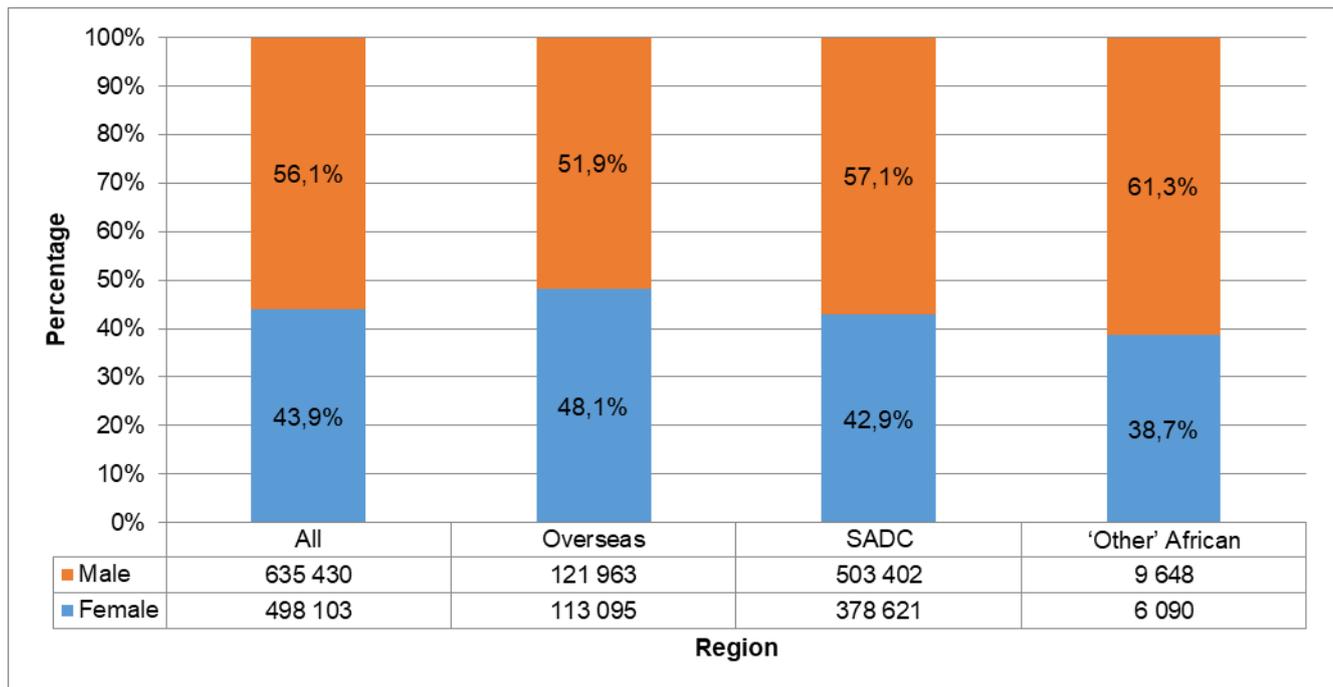
## 2.3 Tourists

### 2.3.1 Sex and age distribution of tourists

#### Sex

Figure 1 on page 5 shows that there were more male [635 430 (56,1%)] than female [498 103 (43,9%)] tourists. Male tourists constituted the majority of tourists for all three regions, SADC countries [503 402 (57,1%)], overseas countries [121 963 (51,9%)] and 'other' African countries [9 648 (61,3%)]. Similarly, the largest portion of female tourists was from SADC countries [378 621 (42,9%)], followed by overseas countries [113 095 (48,1%)] and 'other' African countries [6 090 (38,7%)].

**Figure 1 – Percentage distribution of tourists by region of residence and sex, January 2026**

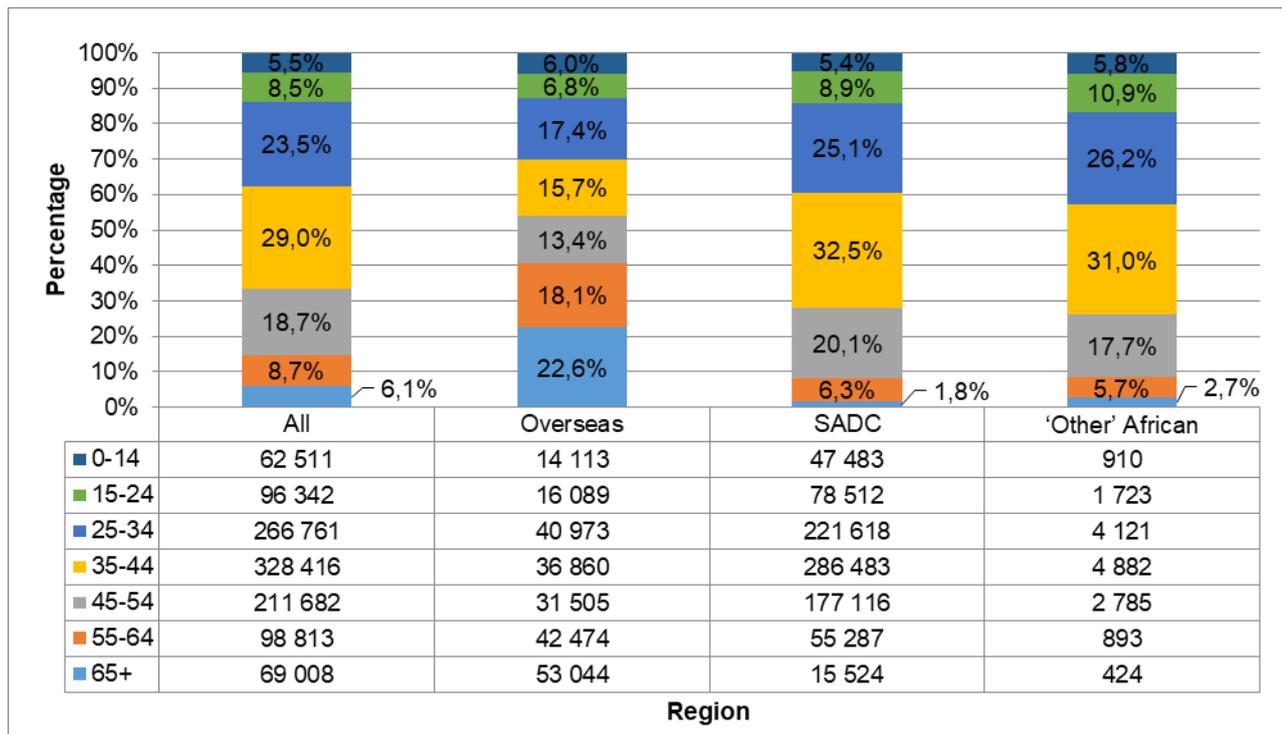


**Age**

The age distribution indicates that out of all tourists, [5,5% (62 511)] were aged younger than 15; [8,5% (96 342)] were aged between 15 and 24; [23,5% (266 761)] were aged between 25 and 34; [29,0% (328 416)] were aged between 35 and 44; [18,7% (211 682)] were aged between 45 and 54; [8,7% (98 813)] were aged between 55 and 64; and [6,1% (69 008)] were aged 65 and older (see Figure 2 on page 6).

Taking the region of residence into consideration, the results show that the highest proportion of tourists from SADC countries [32,5% (286 483)] and those from 'other' African countries [31,0% (4 882)] were aged between 35 and 44, whereas those from overseas countries [22,6% (53 044)] were aged 65 and older. The second highest proportion of tourists from 'other' African countries [26,2% (4 121)] and those from SADC countries [25,1% (221 618)] were aged between 25 and 34, while those from overseas countries [18,1% (42 474)] were aged between 55 and 64. The proportion of tourists aged younger than 15 was higher among tourists from overseas countries, 6,0% (14 113) compared with tourists from 'other' African countries, 5,8% (910) and from SADC countries, 5,4% (47 483). The median ages of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African countries were 48, 38 and 37 years, respectively.

**Figure 2 – Percentage distribution of tourists by region of residence and age, January 2026**

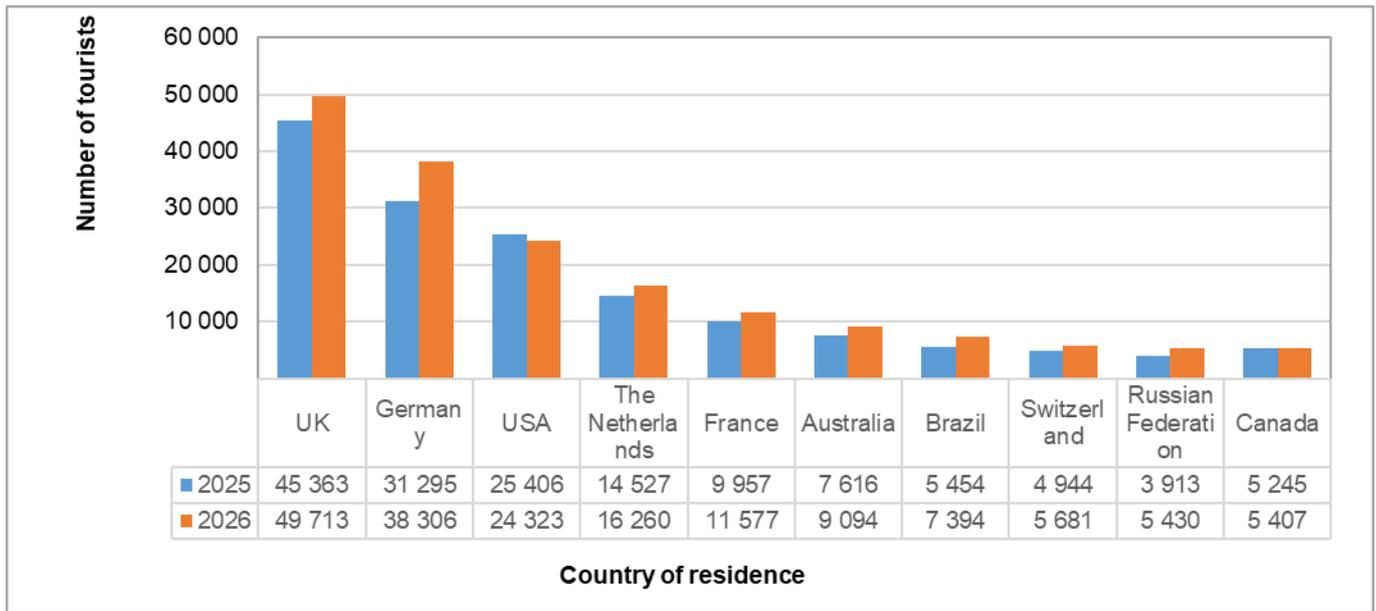


**2.3.2 Regional and national distribution of tourists**

In January 2026, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 165 603 (70,5%); North America, 29 730 (12,6%); Asia, 15 858 (6,7%); Australasia, 10 498 (4,5%); Central and South America, 10 380 (4,4%) and Middle East, 2 989 (1,3%) (see Table 4 on page 9).

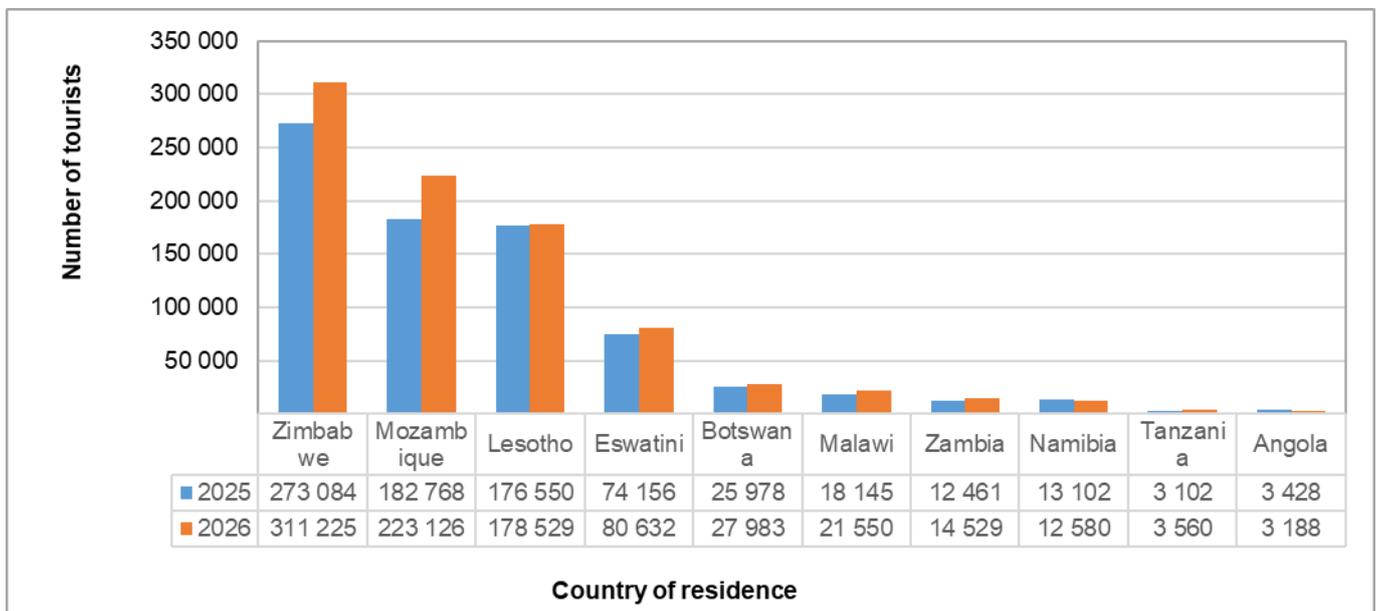
Figure 3 on page 7 indicates that the 10 leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in January 2026 were: UK, 49 713 (21,1%); Germany, 38 306 (16,3%); USA, 24 323 (10,3%); The Netherlands, 16 260 (6,9%); France, 11 577 (4,9%); Australia, 9 094 (3,9%); Brazil, 7 394 (3,1%); Switzerland, 5 681 (2,4%); Russian Federation, 5 430 (2,3%) and Canada, 5 407 (2,3%). Tourists from these 10 countries constituted 73,7% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the 10 leading countries between January 2025 and January 2026 shows that the number of tourists increased for 9 of the 10 leading countries. Russian Federation had the highest increase of 38,8% (from 3 913 tourists in January 2025 to 5 430 tourists in January 2026).

**Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the 10 leading overseas countries in January 2025 and January 2026**



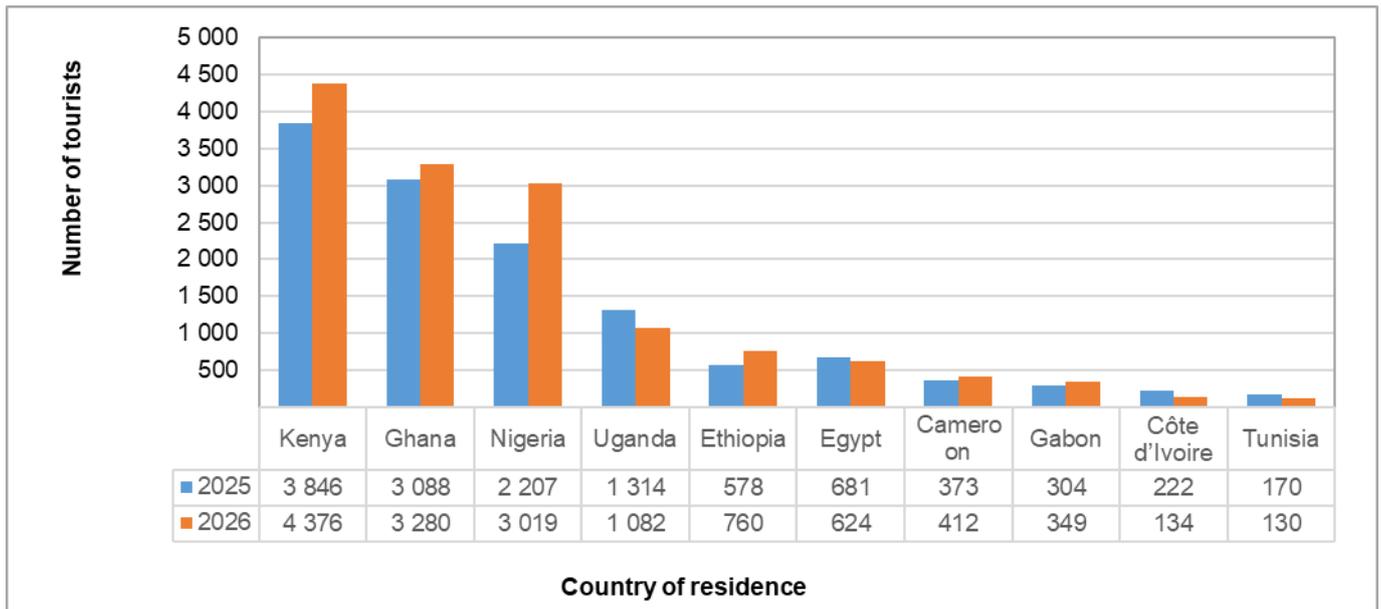
Virtually, most tourists from Africa, 882 023 (98,2%), came from SADC countries (see Table 4 on page 9). The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa was as follows: East and Central Africa, 7 491 (0,8%); West Africa, 7 016 (0,8%) and North Africa, 1 231 (0,1%). The 10 leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in January 2026 are shown in Figure 4 below. The highest number of tourists were from Zimbabwe, 311 225 (35,3%); Mozambique, 223 126 (25,3%); Lesotho, 178 529 (20,2%); Eswatini, 80 632 (9,1%); Botswana, 27 983 (3,2%); Malawi, 21 550 (2,4%); Zambia, 14 529 (1,6%); Namibia, 12 580 (1,4%); Tanzania, 3 560 (0,4%) and Angola, 3 188 (0,4%). 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 2025 and January 2026 shows that the number of tourists increased for 8 of the 10 leading countries. Mozambique showed the highest increase of 22,1% (from 182 768 tourists in January 2025 to 223 126 tourists in January 2026).

**Figure 4 – Number of tourists from the 10 leading SADC countries in January 2025 and January 2026**



The 10 leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in January 2026 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 5 below, were: Kenya, 4 376 (27,8%); Ghana, 3 280 (20,8%); Nigeria, 3 019 (19,2%); Uganda, 1 082 (6,9%); Ethiopia, 760 (4,8%); Egypt, 624 (4,0%); Cameroon, 412 (2,6%); Gabon, 349 (2,2%); Côte d'Ivoire, 134 (0,9%) and Tunisia, 130 (0,8). Tourists from these 10 countries constituted 90,0% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in January 2025 and January 2026 shows that the number of tourists increased for 6 of the 10 leading countries. Nigeria showed the highest increase of 36,8% (from 2 207 tourists in January 2025 to 3 019 tourists in January 2026).

**Figure 5 – Number of tourists from the 10 leading 'other' African countries in January 2025 and January 2026**



**2.3.3 Purpose of visit of tourists**

Table 4 on page 9, shows the number of tourists by region, sub-region and purpose of visit. 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 2026, the majority of tourists, 1 107 838 (97,7%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 18 450 (1,6%); 6 963 (0,6%) and 282 (less than 0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and medical treatment, respectively.

Within the overseas regions, Australasia, 99,5% (10 449) had the highest proportion of tourists who came for holiday, followed by Central and South America, 98,9% (10 266); Europe, 98,8% (163 602); North America, 98,2% (29 194); Middle East, 95,8% (2 862) and Asia, 93,1% (14 765).

Asia, 2,9% (466) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for business, followed by Middle East, 2,2% (67); North America, 0,9% (269); Europe, 0,7% (1 197); Central and South America, 0,3% (28) and Australasia, 0,3% (28).

Asia, 3,9% (623) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to study, followed by Middle East, 2,0% (59); North America, 0,9% (262); Central and South America, 0,8% (83); Europe, 0,5% (769) and Australasia, 0,2% (19).

Europe (35), North America (5), Asia (4), Central and South America (3), Australasia (2) and Middle East (1) had less than 0,1% of tourists who came for medical treatment.

Majority of African tourists, 876 016 (97,6%) came to South Africa for holiday. However, the following differences in terms of reasons for travel were observed between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- Holiday makers constituted 97,7% (861 670) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 91,2% (14 346) from 'other' African countries. Information on the regions of 'other' African countries shows that 93,0% (6 522) of tourists from West Africa were on holiday, followed by tourists from East and Central Africa, 90,4% (6 770) and those from North Africa, 85,6% (1 054).
- Business persons constituted 1,8% (16 045) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 2,0% (322) from 'other' African countries. North Africa, 4,8% (59) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes, followed by East and Central Africa, 2,5% (191) and West Africa, 1,0% (72).
- Students constituted 0,5% (4 106) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 6,6% (1 040) from 'other' African countries. North Africa, 9,5% (117) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes, followed by East and Central Africa, 6,8% (507) and West Africa, 5,9% (416).
- Tourists who came for medical treatment constituted less than 0,1% (202) of tourists from SADC countries, while those from 'other' African countries constituted 0,2% (30). East and Central Africa, 0,3% (23) had the highest proportion of tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by West Africa, 0,1% (6) and North Africa, 0,1% (1).

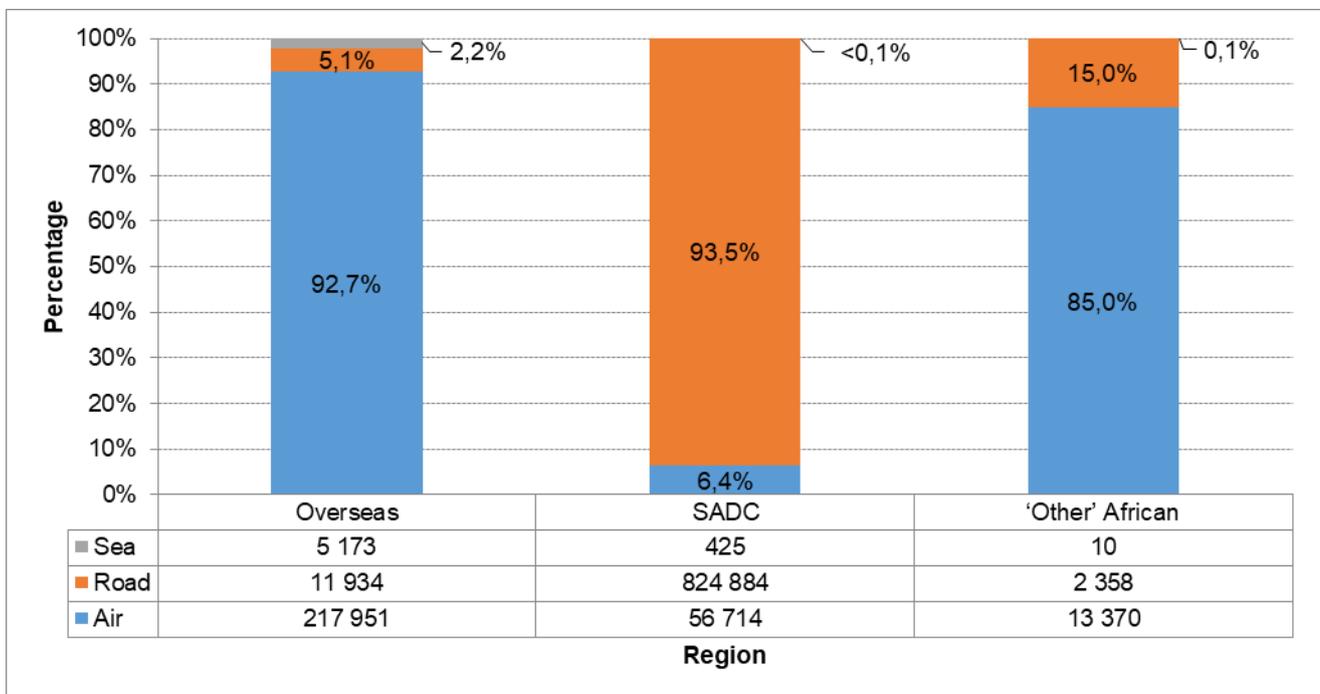
**Table 4 – Number of tourists by region of residence and purpose of visit**

Region of residence	January 2026	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 133 533</b>	<b>18 450</b>	<b>1 107 838</b>	<b>6 963</b>	<b>282</b>
<b>Overseas</b>	<b>235 058</b>	<b>2 055</b>	<b>231 138</b>	<b>1 815</b>	<b>50</b>
Europe	165 603	1 197	163 602	769	35
North America	29 730	269	29 194	262	5
Central and South America	10 380	28	10 266	83	3
Australasia	10 498	28	10 449	19	2
Middle East	2 989	67	2 862	59	1
Asia	15 858	466	14 765	623	4
<b>Africa</b>	<b>897 761</b>	<b>16 367</b>	<b>876 016</b>	<b>5 146</b>	<b>232</b>
<b>SADC</b>	<b>882 023</b>	<b>16 045</b>	<b>861 670</b>	<b>4 106</b>	<b>202</b>
<b>'Other' African</b>	<b>15 738</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>14 346</b>	<b>1 040</b>	<b>30</b>
East and Central Africa	7 491	191	6 770	507	23
West Africa	7 016	72	6 522	416	6
North Africa	1 231	59	1 054	117	1
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>

### 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 E on page 24. As shown in Figure 6 below, 217 951 (92,7%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 11 934 (5,1%) came by road and 5 173 (2,2%) came by sea. Tourists from the SADC countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 824 884 (93,5%), 56 714 (6,4%) came by air and 425 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 13 370 (85,0%); while 2 358 (15,0%) used road transport and 10 (0,1%) preferred sea. Most tourists who arrived by road came through Beit Bridge port (265 019) in Limpopo and Lebombo port (209 869) in Mpumalanga. The majority of tourists who came by air entered through OR Tambo International Airport (156 030) and Cape Town International Airport (129 586). Tourists who arrived by sea came through Cape Town Harbour (4 919) and Durban Harbour (689).

**Figure 6 – Percentage distribution of tourists by region of residence and mode of travel, January 2026**



### 3. Annexures

#### Annexure A – Number of tourists' difference between January 2025 and January 2026 by country of residence

Country of residence	January 2025	January 2026	Difference between January 2025 and January 2026	% change between January 2025 and January 2026
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 013 984</b>	<b>1 133 533</b>	<b>119 549</b>	<b>11,8</b>
<b>Overseas</b>	<b>210 709</b>	<b>235 058</b>	<b>24 349</b>	<b>11,6</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>142 786</b>	<b>165 603</b>	<b>22 817</b>	<b>16,0</b>
Austria	2 494	3 339	845	33,9
Belgium	4 015	4 628	613	15,3
Denmark	2 548	2 690	142	5,6
France	9 957	11 577	1 620	16,3
Germany	31 295	38 306	7 011	22,4
Ireland	3 129	3 679	550	17,6
Italy	3 462	4 046	584	16,9
Poland	1 776	2 149	373	21,0
Russian Federation	3 913	5 430	1 517	38,8
Sweden	4 049	4 333	284	7,0
Switzerland	4 944	5 681	737	14,9
The Netherlands	14 527	16 260	1 733	11,9
Turkey	2 008	2 344	336	16,7
UK	45 363	49 713	4 350	9,6
Other	9 306	11 428	2 122	22,8
<b>North America</b>	<b>30 651</b>	<b>29 730</b>	<b>-921</b>	<b>-3,0</b>
Canada	5 245	5 407	162	3,1
USA	25 406	24 323	-1 083	-4,3
<b>Central and South America</b>	<b>8 358</b>	<b>10 380</b>	<b>2 022</b>	<b>24,2</b>
Argentina	1 099	1 243	144	13,1
Brazil	5 454	7 394	1 940	35,6
Chile	370	416	46	12,4
Other	1 435	1 327	-108	-7,5

**Annexure A – Number of tourists' difference between January 2025 and January 2026 by country of residence (continued)**

Country of residence	January 2025	January 2026	Difference between January 2025 and January 2026	% change between January 2025 and January 2026
<b>Australasia</b>	<b>9 068</b>	<b>10 498</b>	<b>1 430</b>	<b>15,8</b>
Australia	7 616	9 094	1 478	19,4
New Zealand	1 433	1 392	-41	-2,9
Other	19	12	-7	-36,8
<b>Middle East</b>	<b>2 834</b>	<b>2 989</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>5,5</b>
Israel	714	834	120	16,8
Jordan	213	225	12	5,6
Saudi Arabia	1 059	1 208	149	14,1
Other	848	722	-126	-14,9
<b>Asia</b>	<b>17 012</b>	<b>15 858</b>	<b>-1 154</b>	<b>-6,8</b>
Bangladesh	504	621	117	23,2
China	3 738	2 471	-1 267	-33,9
India	5 902	5 317	-585	-9,9
Japan	1 330	1 434	104	7,8
Malaysia	408	371	-37	-9,1
Pakistan	1 310	1 771	461	35,2
Philippines	350	391	41	11,7
Singapore	308	391	83	26,9
South Korea	1 735	1 728	-7	-0,4
Thailand	266	350	84	31,6
Other	1 161	1 013	-148	-12,7
<b>Africa</b>	<b>802 481</b>	<b>897 761</b>	<b>95 280</b>	<b>11,9</b>
<b>SADC</b>	<b>787 560</b>	<b>882 023</b>	<b>94 463</b>	<b>12,0</b>
Angola	3 428	3 188	-240	-7,0
Botswana	25 978	27 983	2 005	7,7
DRC	2 751	2 863	112	4,1
Eswatini	74 156	80 632	6 476	8,7

**Annexure A – Number of tourists' difference between January 2025 and January 2026 by country of residence (continued)**

Country of residence	January 2025	January 2026	Difference between January 2025 and January 2026	% change between January 2025 and January 2026
Lesotho	176 550	178 529	1 979	1,1
Madagascar	264	328	64	24,2
Malawi	18 145	21 550	3 405	18,8
Mauritius	1 379	1 487	108	7,8
Mozambique	182 768	223 126	40 358	22,1
Namibia	13 102	12 580	-522	-4,0
Seychelles	392	443	51	13,0
Tanzania	3 102	3 560	458	14,8
Zambia	12 461	14 529	2 068	16,6
Zimbabwe	273 084	311 225	38 141	14,0
<b>'Other' African</b>	<b>14 921</b>	<b>15 738</b>	<b>817</b>	<b>5,5</b>
<b>East and Central Africa</b>	<b>7 091</b>	<b>7 491</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>5,6</b>
Burundi	95	99	4	4,2
Cameroon	373	412	39	10,5
Central African Republic	18	6	-12	-66,7
Chad	53	38	-15	-28,3
Comoros	30	19	-11	-36,7
Congo	215	120	-95	-44,2
Djibouti	10	7	-3	-30,0
Equatorial Guinea	37	21	-16	-43,2
Eritrea	41	28	-13	-31,7
Ethiopia	578	760	182	31,5
Gabon	304	349	45	14,8
Kenya	3 846	4 376	530	13,8
Réunion	6	-	-	-
Rwanda	88	81	-7	-8,0
São Tomé and Príncipe	18	6	-12	-66,7
Somalia	65	87	22	33,8
Uganda	1 314	1 082	-232	-17,7

**Annexure A – Number of tourists' difference between January 2025 and January 2026 by country of residence (concluded)**

Country of residence	January 2025	January 2026	Difference between January 2025 and January 2026	% change between January 2025 and January 2026
<b>West Africa</b>	<b>6 363</b>	<b>7 016</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>10,3</b>
Benin	148	112	-36	-24,3
Burkina Faso	51	39	-12	-23,5
Cape Verde Island	33	26	-7	-21,2
Côte d'Ivoire	222	134	-88	-39,6
Gambia	31	47	16	51,6
Ghana	3 088	3 280	192	6,2
Guinea	104	72	-32	-30,8
Guinea-Bissau	22	1	-21	-95,5
Liberia	70	35	-35	-50,0
Mali	127	48	-79	-62,2
Mauritania	26	15	-11	-42,3
Niger	28	21	-7	-25,0
Nigeria	2 207	3 019	812	36,8
Saint Helena	2	1	-1	-50,0
Senegal	112	116	4	3,6
Sierra Leone	50	35	-15	-30,0
Togo	42	15	-27	-64,3
<b>North Africa</b>	<b>1 467</b>	<b>1 231</b>	<b>-236</b>	<b>-16,1</b>
Algeria	153	127	-26	-17,0
Egypt	681	624	-57	-8,4
Libya	52	40	-12	-23,1
Morocco	252	117	-135	-53,6
South Sudan	53	63	10	18,9
The Sudan	104	130	26	25,0
Tunisia	170	130	-40	-23,5
Western Sahara	2	-	-	-
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>-80</b>	<b>-10,1</b>

**Annexure B – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, January 2026**

Country of residence	January 2026	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 133 533</b>	<b>129 586</b>	<b>2 729</b>	<b>156 030</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>288 577</b>	<b>839 348</b>	<b>5 608</b>
<b>Overseas</b>	<b>235 058</b>	<b>119 341</b>	<b>1 980</b>	<b>96 484</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>217 951</b>	<b>11 934</b>	<b>5 173</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>165 603</b>	<b>96 370</b>	<b>1 253</b>	<b>56 450</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>154 150</b>	<b>7 246</b>	<b>4 207</b>
Austria	3 339	2 272	49	876		3 197	136	6
Belgium	4 628	2 617	24	1 742	3	4 386	219	23
Denmark	2 690	1 049	27	1 490	3	2 569	115	6
France	11 577	4 417	39	5 982	5	10 443	1 064	70
Germany	38 306	26 393	149	10 161	13	36 716	1 274	316
Ireland	3 679	2 264	38	1 156	11	3 469	141	69
Italy	4 046	2 128	43	1 596	3	3 770	261	15
Poland	2 149	1 190	48	738	-	1 976	163	10
Russian Federation	5 430	3 465	35	1 596	1	5 097	259	74
Sweden	4 333	2 514	33	1 533	-	4 080	242	11
Switzerland	5 681	3 659	20	1 723	1	5 403	216	62
The Netherlands	16 260	10 829	66	4 346	4	15 245	935	80
Turkey	2 344	1 229	83	920	-	2 232	112	-
UK	49 713	26 824	476	17 893	27	45 220	1 107	3 386
Other	11 428	5 520	123	4 698	6	10 347	1 002	79
<b>North America</b>	<b>29 730</b>	<b>13 661</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>13 942</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>27 789</b>	<b>1 346</b>	<b>595</b>
Canada	5 407	2 404	22	2 567	2	4 995	244	168
USA	24 323	11 257	118	11 375	44	22 794	1 102	427
<b>Central and South America</b>	<b>10 380</b>	<b>2 220</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7 770</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10 006</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>38</b>
Argentina	1 243	305	3	893	4	1 205	37	1
Brazil	7 394	1 521	-	5 621	2	7 144	222	28
Chile	416	43	-	368	-	411	5	-
Other	1 327	351	5	888	2	1 246	72	9

**Annexure B – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, January 2026 (continued)**

Country of residence	January 2026	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
<b>Australasia</b>	<b>10 498</b>	<b>1 924</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>7 905</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9 912</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>183</b>
Australia	9 094	1 614	56	6 894	6	8 570	354	170
New Zealand	1 392	308	21	1 002	-	1 331	48	13
Other	12	2	-	9	-	11	1	-
<b>Middle East</b>	<b>2 989</b>	<b>1 656</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1 197</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2 873</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>9</b>
Israel	834	363	6	435	1	805	24	5
Jordan	225	85	1	111	-	197	28	-
Saudi Arabia	1 208	1 000	4	200	-	1 204	1	3
Other	722	208	8	451	-	667	54	1
<b>Asia</b>	<b>15 858</b>	<b>3 510</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>9 220</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13 221</b>	<b>2 496</b>	<b>141</b>
Bangladesh	621	96	52	333	-	481	140	-
China	2 471	401	21	1 774	3	2 199	237	35
India	5 317	725	172	3 368	2	4 267	1 019	31
Japan	1 434	408	54	887	-	1 349	72	13
Malaysia	371	103	19	203	-	325	42	4
Pakistan	1 771	187	79	890	-	1 156	610	5
Philippines	391	74	22	215	3	314	50	27
Singapore	391	132	2	244	-	378	8	5
South Korea	1 728	954	9	643	-	1 606	120	2
Thailand	350	124	28	187	-	339	10	1
Other	1 013	306	25	476	-	807	188	18
<b>Africa</b>	<b>897 761</b>	<b>10 208</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>59 042</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>70 084</b>	<b>827 242</b>	<b>435</b>
<b>SADC</b>	<b>882 023</b>	<b>7 217</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>48 718</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>56 714</b>	<b>824 884</b>	<b>425</b>
Angola	3 188	1 276	1	1 338	4	2 619	569	-
Botswana	27 983	275	1	3 216	4	3 496	24 437	50
DRC	2 863	110	1	2 531	4	2 646	202	15
Eswatini	80 632	179	125	967	1	1 272	79 341	19

**Annexure B – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, January 2026 (continued)**

Country of residence	January 2026	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Lesotho	178 529	10	2	537	-	549	177 929	51
Madagascar	328	22	-	291	2	315	10	3
Malawi	21 550	18	1	2 644	2	2 665	18 883	2
Mauritius	1 487	554	-	877	-	1 431	51	5
Mozambique	223 126	483	18	5 156	8	5 665	217 344	117
Namibia	12 580	2 050	1	2 226	5	4 282	8 225	73
Seychelles	443	6	-	416	-	422	21	-
Tanzania	3 560	380	1	1 900	10	2 291	1 269	-
Zambia	14 529	106	1	4 603	11	4 721	9 785	23
Zimbabwe	311 225	1 748	551	22 016	25	24 340	286 818	67
<b>'Other' African</b>	<b>15 738</b>	<b>2 991</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>10 324</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13 370</b>	<b>2 358</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>East and Central Africa</b>	<b>7 491</b>	<b>1 691</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4 709</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6 418</b>	<b>1 068</b>	<b>5</b>
Burundi	99	21	1	73	-	95	4	-
Cameroon	412	60	1	330	-	391	21	-
Central African Republic	6	-	-	6	-	6	-	-
Chad	38	3	-	35	-	38	-	-
Comoros	19	-	-	19	-	19	-	-
Congo	120	42	-	68	-	110	10	-
Djibouti	7	-	-	7	-	7	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	21	1	-	20	-	21	-	-
Eritrea	28	2	3	21	-	26	2	-
Ethiopia	760	110	1	546	2	659	100	1
Gabon	349	46	-	302	-	348	1	-
Kenya	4 376	1 208	4	2 383	4	3 599	773	4
Rwanda	81	7	1	54	-	62	19	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	6	-	-	5	-	5	1	-
Somalia	87	5	-	33	-	38	49	-
Uganda	1 082	186	1	807	-	994	88	-

**Annexure B – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, January 2026 (concluded)**

Country of residence	January 2026	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
<b>West Africa</b>	<b>7 016</b>	<b>996</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4 764</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5 776</b>	<b>1 235</b>	<b>5</b>
Benin	112	11	1	89	-	101	11	-
Burkina Faso	39	6	-	33	-	39	-	-
Cape Verde Island	26	9	-	14	-	23	3	-
Côte d'Ivoire	134	12	-	119	-	131	3	-
Gambia	47	5	-	40	-	45	2	-
Ghana	3 280	315	1	1 922	2	2 240	1 039	1
Guinea	72	1	-	43	-	44	28	-
Guinea-Bissau	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Liberia	35	5	1	27	-	33	2	-
Mali	48	4	-	27	-	31	17	-
Mauritania	15	1	-	14	-	15	-	-
Niger	21	2	-	19	-	21	-	-
Nigeria	3 019	594	4	2 296	2	2 896	119	4
Saint Helena	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Senegal	116	27	5	82	-	114	2	-
Sierra Leone	35	2	-	25	-	27	8	-
Togo	15	1	-	13	-	14	1	-
<b>North Africa</b>	<b>1 231</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1 176</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>-</b>
Algeria	127	56	2	61	-	119	8	-
Egypt	624	138	7	455	-	600	24	-
Libya	40	7	3	26	-	36	4	-
Morocco	117	26	6	81	-	113	4	-
South Sudan	63	9	-	48	-	57	6	-
The Sudan	130	28	3	91	-	122	8	-
Tunisia	130	40	-	89	-	129	1	-
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>-</b>

**Annexure C – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit, January 2026**

Country of residence	January 2026	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical Treatment
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 133 533</b>	<b>18 450</b>	<b>1 107 838</b>	<b>6 963</b>	<b>282</b>
<b>Overseas</b>	<b>235 058</b>	<b>2 055</b>	<b>231 138</b>	<b>1 815</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>165 603</b>	<b>1 197</b>	<b>163 602</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>35</b>
Austria	3 339	13	3 316	10	-
Belgium	4 628	43	4 553	30	2
Denmark	2 690	29	2 654	7	-
France	11 577	127	11 311	138	1
Germany	38 306	160	37 950	195	1
Ireland	3 679	24	3 649	4	2
Italy	4 046	61	3 932	53	-
Poland	2 149	26	2 116	7	-
Russian Federation	5 430	25	5 394	10	1
Sweden	4 333	15	4 300	17	1
Switzerland	5 681	17	5 639	25	-
The Netherlands	16 260	121	16 066	60	13
Turkey	2 344	42	2 285	17	-
UK	49 713	347	49 242	115	9
Other	11 428	147	11 195	81	5
<b>North America</b>	<b>29 730</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>29 194</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>5</b>
Canada	5 407	44	5 337	26	-
USA	24 323	225	23 857	236	5
<b>Central and South America</b>	<b>10 380</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>10 266</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>3</b>
Argentina	1 243	1	1 233	9	-
Brazil	7 394	17	7 329	45	3
Chile	416	1	414	1	-
Other	1 327	9	1 290	28	-

**Annexure C – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit, January 2026 (continued)**

Country of residence	January 2026	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical Treatment
<b>Australasia</b>	<b>10 498</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>10 449</b>	19	<b>2</b>
Australia	9 094	24	9 052	16	2
New Zealand	1 392	4	1 385	3	-
Other	12	-	12	-	-
<b>Middle East</b>	<b>2 989</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>2 862</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>1</b>
Israel	834	16	818	-	-
Jordan	225	9	215	1	-
Saudi Arabia	1 208	5	1 185	18	-
Other	722	37	644	40	1
<b>Asia</b>	<b>15 858</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>14 765</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>4</b>
Bangladesh	621	11	598	11	1
China	2 471	83	2 275	112	1
India	5 317	227	4 748	342	-
Japan	1 434	52	1 358	24	-
Malaysia	371	10	340	21	-
Pakistan	1 771	22	1 723	26	-
Philippines	391	8	370	11	2
Singapore	391	6	384	1	-
South Korea	1 728	11	1 682	35	-
Thailand	350	9	331	10	-
Other	1 013	27	956	30	-
<b>Africa</b>	<b>897 761</b>	<b>16 367</b>	<b>876 016</b>	<b>5 146</b>	<b>232</b>
<b>SADC</b>	<b>882 023</b>	<b>16 045</b>	<b>861 670</b>	<b>4 106</b>	<b>202</b>
Angola	3 188	26	2 857	270	35
Botswana	27 983	416	27 096	464	7
DRC	2 863	25	2 621	186	31
Eswatini	80 632	2 191	78 156	254	31

**Annexure C – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit, January 2026 (continued)**

Country of residence	January 2026	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical Treatment
Lesotho	178 529	748	177 238	525	18
Madagascar	328	16	295	17	-
Malawi	21 550	236	21 193	118	3
Mauritius	1 487	29	1 414	41	3
Mozambique	223 126	3 229	219 758	121	18
Namibia	12 580	3 088	8 942	541	9
Seychelles	443	-	443	-	-
Tanzania	3 560	43	3 389	122	6
Zambia	14 529	2 515	11 840	158	16
Zimbabwe	311 225	3 483	306 428	1 289	25
<b>'Other' African</b>	<b>15 738</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>14 346</b>	<b>1 040</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>East and Central Africa</b>	<b>7 491</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>6 770</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>23</b>
Burundi	99	6	82	11	-
Cameroon	412	9	340	55	8
Central African Republic	6	2	2	1	1
Chad	38	-	29	9	-
Comoros	19	-	17	2	-
Congo	120	-	108	10	2
Djibouti	7	-	7	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	21	-	16	5	-
Eritrea	28	1	24	3	-
Ethiopia	760	10	704	42	4
Gabon	349	-	313	36	-
Kenya	4 376	108	4 049	216	3
Rwanda	81	3	77	1	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	6	-	6	-	-
Somalia	87	26	57	4	-
Uganda	1 082	26	939	112	5

**Annexure C – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit, January 2026 (concluded)**

Country of residence	January 2026	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical Treatment
<b>West Africa</b>	<b>7 016</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>6 522</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>6</b>
Benin	112	1	105	6	-
Burkina Faso	39	4	34	1	-
Cape Verde Island	26	-	26	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	134	3	113	18	-
Gambia	47	3	42	2	-
Ghana	3 280	14	3 223	41	2
Guinea	72	-	67	5	-
Guinea-Bissau	1	-	1	-	-
Liberia	35	2	31	2	-
Mali	48	-	43	5	-
Mauritania	15	1	12	2	-
Niger	21	-	18	3	-
Nigeria	3 019	39	2 663	314	3
Saint Helena	1	-	-	-	1
Senegal	116	5	105	6	-
Sierra Leone	35	-	26	9	-
Togo	15	-	13	2	-
<b>North Africa</b>	<b>1 231</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>1 054</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>1</b>
Algeria	127	6	120	1	-
Egypt	624	36	541	47	-
Libya	40	-	30	10	-
Morocco	117	12	96	9	-
South Sudan	63	1	45	16	1
The Sudan	130	4	95	31	-
Tunisia	130	-	127	3	-
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>

**Annexure D – Number of tourists' difference between Jan 2019 and Jan 2026 by port of entry and province (excluding ports in Jan 2019 with missing data in Jan 2026)**

Port of entry and province	January 2019	January 2026	Difference between Jan 2019 and Jan 2026	% Change between Jan 2019 and Jan 2026
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 035 734</b>	<b>1 133 533</b>	<b>97 799</b>	<b>9,4</b>
<b>Western Cape</b>	<b>99 180</b>	<b>134 505</b>	<b>35 325</b>	<b>35,6</b>
Cape Town Harbour	2 958	4 919	1 961	66,3
Cape Town International Airport	96 222	129 586	33 364	34,7
<b>Northern Cape</b>	<b>8 335</b>	<b>8 499</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>2,0</b>
Nakop	2 991	3 993	1 002	33,5
Violsdrift	5 344	4 506	-838	-15,7
<b>Free State</b>	<b>180 083</b>	<b>179 989</b>	<b>-94</b>	<b>-0,1</b>
Caledonspoort	13 281	19 266	5 985	45,1
Ficksburg	84 188	83 043	-1 145	-1,4
Maseru Bridge	66 435	73 756	7 321	11,0
Van Rooyens Gate	16 179	3 924	-12 255	-75,7
<b>KwaZulu Natal</b>	<b>27 144</b>	<b>32 743</b>	<b>5 599</b>	<b>20,6</b>
Durban Harbour	165	689	524	317,6
King Shaka International Airport	4 215	2 729	-1 486	-35,3
Golela	13 418	13 234	-184	-1,4
Kosibay	9 346	16 091	6 745	72,2
<b>North West</b>	<b>39 335</b>	<b>33 741</b>	<b>-5 594</b>	<b>-14,2</b>
Kopfontein	21 143	18 298	-2 845	-13,5
Ramatlabama	6 876	6 979	103	1,5
Skilpad Gate	7 841	6 089	-1 752	-22,3
Swartkopfontein Gate	3 475	2 375	-1 100	-31,7
<b>Gauteng</b>	<b>169 173</b>	<b>156 262</b>	<b>-12 911</b>	<b>-7,6</b>
Lanseria International Airport	184	232	48	26,1
OR Tambo International Airport	168 989	156 030	-12 959	-7,7
<b>Mpumalanga</b>	<b>224 228</b>	<b>293 580</b>	<b>69 352</b>	<b>30,9</b>
Emahlatini	5 031	7 193	2 162	43,0
Jeppes Reef	10 675	15 003	4 328	40,5
Lebombo	157 464	209 869	52 405	33,3
Mahamba	8 420	8 506	86	1,0
Mananga	7 160	6 908	-252	-3,5
Nerston	1 258	738	-520	-41,3
Oshoek	34 220	45 363	11 143	32,6
<b>Limpopo</b>	<b>288 256</b>	<b>294 214</b>	<b>5 958</b>	<b>2,1</b>
Beit Bridge	265 951	265 019	-932	-0,4
Groblers Bridge	22 305	29 195	6 890	30,9

**Annexure E – Number of tourists' difference between Jan 2025 and Jan 2026 by port of entry and province (excluding ports in Jan 2026 with missing data in Jan 2025)**

Port of entry and province	January 2025	January 2026	Difference between Jan 2025 and Jan 2026	% Change between Jan 2025 and Jan 2026
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 006 345</b>	<b>1 131 158</b>	<b>124 813</b>	<b>12,4</b>
<b>Western Cape</b>	<b>115 244</b>	<b>134 505</b>	<b>19 261</b>	<b>16,7</b>
Cape Town Harbour	172	4 919	4 747	2759,9
Cape Town International Airport	115 072	129 586	14 514	12,6
<b>Northern Cape</b>	<b>9 041</b>	<b>8 499</b>	<b>-542</b>	<b>-6,0</b>
Nakop	4 200	3 993	-207	-4,9
Violsdrift	4 841	4 506	-335	-6,9
<b>Free State</b>	<b>170 726</b>	<b>179 989</b>	<b>9 263</b>	<b>5,4</b>
Caledonspoort	17 143	19 266	2 123	12,4
Ficksburg	75 429	83 043	7 614	10,1
Maseru Bridge	65 298	73 756	8 458	13,0
Van Rooyens Gate	12 856	3 924	-8 932	-69,5
<b>KwaZulu Natal</b>	<b>30 470</b>	<b>32 743</b>	<b>2 273</b>	<b>7,5</b>
Durban Harbour	1 318	689	-629	-47,7
King Shaka International Airport	2 695	2 729	34	1,3
Golela	13 146	13 234	88	0,7
Kosibay	13 311	16 091	2 780	20,9
<b>North West</b>	<b>37 760</b>	<b>31 366</b>	<b>-6 394</b>	<b>-16,9</b>
Kopfontein	22 998	18 298	-4 700	-20,4
Ramatlabama	6 321	6 979	658	10,4
Skilpad Gate	8 441	6 089	-2 352	-27,9
<b>Gauteng</b>	<b>144 254</b>	<b>156 262</b>	<b>12 008</b>	<b>8,3</b>
Lanseria International Airport	179	232	53	29,6
OR Tambo International Airport	144 075	156 030	11 955	8,3
<b>Mpumalanga</b>	<b>243 733</b>	<b>293 580</b>	<b>49 847</b>	<b>20,5</b>
Emahlatini	4 743	7 193	2 450	51,7
Jeppes Reef	13 753	15 003	1 250	9,1
Lebombo	169 813	209 869	40 056	23,6
Mahamba	7 989	8 506	517	6,5
Mananga	7 013	6 908	-105	-1,5
Nerston	101	738	637	630,7
Oshoek	40 321	45 363	5 042	12,5
<b>Limpopo</b>	<b>255 117</b>	<b>294 214</b>	<b>39 097</b>	<b>15,3</b>
Beit Bridge	237 063	265 019	27 956	11,8
Groblers Bridge	18 054	29 195	11 141	61,7

## 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. 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/decrease in the volume of passengers reported by ACSA is also reflected with an increase/decrease in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. In January 2026, the DHA data was 0,5% higher than that of ACSA.

## 4.5 Limitations

### 4.5.1 Outbound tourists

The information on the total number of arrivals and departures of South African residents is collected from the scanning of passports. However, data on the country visited are not collected from passengers; country of final destination; intended duration of stay and purpose of visit. With this limitation, it is impossible to identify the number of tourists from the data on South African residents.

## 4.6 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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(012) 310 6937 (technical enquiries)

Email: TshwaroG@statssa.gov.za (technical enquiries)  
info@statssa.gov.za (user information services)

Postal address: Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001

Produced by Stats SA