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IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS



Contents	Page
List of tables	iii
List of figures	iii
List of annexures	iii
Preface	iv
1. Highlights of the results	1
2. Key findings	2
2.1 Travellers	2
2.1.1 Number of travellers	2
2.1.2 Mode of travel of travellers	3
2.2 Visitors	3
2.3 Tourists	4
2.3.1 Sex and age distribution of tourists	4
2.3.2 Regional and national distribution of tourists	6
2.3.3 Purpose of visit of tourists	8
2.3.4 Mode of travel of tourists	10
3. Annexures	11
4. Explanatory notes	30
4.1 Introduction	30
4.2 Purpose of the statistical release.....	30
4.3 Scope and coverage.....	30
4.4 Data	30
4.5 Limitations.....	31
4.5.1 Outbound tourists	31
4.6 Definition of terms.....	31
4.6.1 Definitions used by the United Nations Tourism (UN Tourism).....	31
4.6.2 Definitions used specifically in this release	31
4.7 Symbols used	32
4.8 Rounding off	32
5. General information	32

List of tables

Table 1 – Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction	2
Table 2 – Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction and mode of travel	3
Table 3 – Number of visitors by type of visitor.....	4
Table 4 – Number of tourists by region of residence and purpose of visit	9

List of figures

Figure 1 – Percentage distribution of tourists by region of residence and sex, May 2025.....	5
Figure 2 – Percentage distribution of tourists by region of residence and age, May 2025	6
Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the 10 leading overseas countries in May 2024 and May 2025	7
Figure 4 – Number of tourists from the 10 leading SADC countries in May 2024 and May 2025.....	7
Figure 5 – Number of tourists from the 10 leading 'other' African countries in May 2024 and May 2025.....	8
Figure 6 – Percentage distribution of tourists by region of residence and mode of travel, May 2025	10

List of annexures

3.1 Annexure A – Number of tourists' difference between May 2024 and May 2025 by country of residence	11
3.2 Annexure B – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, May 2025	15
3.3 Annexure C – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit, May 2025	19
3.4 Annexure D – Number of tourists' difference between Jan – May 2024 and Jan – May 2025 by country of residence.....	23
3.7 Annexure E – Number of tourists' difference between May 2019 and May 2025 by port of entry and province (excluding ports in May 2019 with missing data in May 2025).....	27
3.8 Annexure F – Number of tourists' difference between May 2024 and May 2025 by port of entry and province (excluding ports in May 2025 with missing data in May 2024).....	28
3.8 Annexure G – Number of tourists' difference between Jan – May 2024 and Jan – May 2025 by port of entry and province (excluding ports with missing data between Jan – May, 2024 – 2025)	29

Preface

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

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 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 May 2025, 2 877 112 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) entered and exited South Africa. They were made up of 736 622 (25,6%) South African residents and 2 140 490 (74,4%) foreign travellers. Foreign arrivals were made up of 25 258 (2,2%) non-visitors and 1 100 301 (97,8%) visitors. Visitors consisted of 296 138 (26,9%) same-day visitors and 804 163 (73,1%) overnight visitors/tourists.

Tourists

Overseas tourists constituted 19,0% (152 398) of all tourists. United States of America (USA) (37 786), United Kingdom (UK) (20 772) and Germany (10 775) contributed 45,5% to overseas tourists. Tourists from Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries constituted 79,0% (635 360) of all tourists. Zimbabwe (180 381), Mozambique (170 673) and Lesotho (110 370) contributed 72,6% to SADC tourists. 'Other' African countries (non-SADC) tourists were 1,9% (15 301) of all tourists. Kenya (4 321), Ghana (3 330) and Nigeria (2 672) contributed 67,5% to 'other' African tourists. The country of residence of 1 104 (0,1%) tourists was classified as unspecified.

Purpose of visit

'Holiday'¹ continues to be the main purpose of visit. About 97,1% 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 2 877 112 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports in May 2025. As presented in Table 1 below, these travellers were made up of 736 622 South African residents and 2 140 490 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 368 610 arrivals, 367 507 departures and 505 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 1 125 559, 971 790 and 43 141 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in April 2025 and May 2025 indicates that the volume of arrivals decreased for South African residents but increased for foreign travellers. The volume of departures decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers, whereas transits increased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 5,9% (from 391 787 in April 2025 to 368 610 in May 2025). Departures decreased by 13,5% (from 425 073 in April 2025 to 367 507 in May 2025) and transits increased by 2,4% (from 493 in April 2025 to 505 in May 2025). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 0,9% (from 1 115 585 in April 2025 to 1 125 559 in May 2025), departures decreased by 3,5% (from 1 007 258 in April 2025 to 971 790 in May 2025), and transits increased by 13,0% (from 38 178 in April 2025 to 43 141 in May 2025).

A comparison between the movements in May 2024 and May 2025 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 17,5% (from 313 600 in May 2024 to 368 610 in May 2025), departures increased by 9,5% (from 335 511 in May 2024 to 367 507 in May 2025) and transits increased by 1,2% (from 499 in May 2024 to 505 in May 2025). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 27,7% (from 881 544 in May 2024 to 1 125 559 in May 2025), departures increased by 24,0% (from 783 999 in May 2024 to 971 790 in May 2025) and transits increased by 9,8% (from 39 279 in May 2024 to 43 141 in May 2025).

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

Travel Direction	May 2024	April 2025	May 2025	% Change Apr 2025 – May 2025	% Change May 2024 – May 2025
Total	2 354 432	2 978 374	2 877 112	-3,4%	22,2%
South African residents	649 610	817 353	736 622	-9,9%	13,4%
Arrivals	313 600	391 787	368 610	-5,9%	17,5%
Departures	335 511	425 073	367 507	-13,5%	9,5%
Transits	499	493	505	2,4%	1,2%
Foreign travellers	1 704 822	2 161 021	2 140 490	-1,0%	25,6%
Arrivals	881 544	1 115 585	1 125 559	0,9%	27,7%
Departures	783 999	1 007 258	971 790	-3,5%	24,0%
Transits	39 279	38 178	43 141	13,0%	9,8%

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 May 2025, road was the most common mode of travel used by 1 975 250 (68,7%) of the 2 877 112 travellers. The total number of air travellers was 890 035 (30,9%). Compared to air and road, a smaller number of travellers, 11 827 (0,4%) used sea into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 174 027 (47,2%) came by air, 194 495 (52,8%) came by road and 88 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. For departures, 166 722 (45,4%) used air, 200 622 (54,6%) used road and 163 (0,2%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 505 (100,0%) used air.

In the case of foreign travellers, 238 685 (21,2%) arrived by air, 885 895 (78,7%) came by road and 979 (0,1%) arrived by sea. When departing South Africa, 266 955 (27,5%) foreign travellers left by air, 694 238 (71,4%) left by road and 10 597 (1,1%) left by sea. Of all travellers in transit, 43 141 (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	2 877 112	201 865	26 116	659 362	2 692	890 035	1 975 250	11 827
South African residents	736 622	67 100	16 971	255 346	1 837	341 254	395 117	251
Arrivals	368 610	33 986	8 883	130 272	886	174 027	194 495	88
Departures	367 507	33 103	8 088	124 580	951	166 722	200 622	163
Transit	505	11	-	494	-	505	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 140 490	134 765	9 145	404 016	855	548 781	1 580 133	11 576
Arrivals	1 125 559	61 578	4 131	172 546	430	238 685	885 895	979
Departures	971 790	72 744	5 012	188 774	425	266 955	694 238	10 597
Transit	43 141	443	2	42 696	-	43 141	-	-
Visitors	1 100 301	59 090	3 459	167 223	306	230 078	870 079	144
Same-day	296 138	1 482	10	21 473	67	23 032	273 105	1
Overnight/ Tourist	804 163	57 608	3 449	145 750	239	207 046	596 974	143

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 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 May 2025, 25 258 (2,2%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors, while 1 100 301 (97,8%) were classified as visitors. Visitors were categorised into three groups:

- Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in May 2025 but did not depart in May 2025 [375 924 (34,2%)].
- Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in May 2025 and left in May 2025 [348 823 (31,7%)].
- Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in May 2025 [375 554 (34,1%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors/tourists. In May 2025, there were 296 138 (26,9%) same-day visitors and 804 163 (73,1%) tourists. Between April 2025 and May 2025, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 13,7% (from 260 359 in April 2025 to 296 138 in May 2025) and that of tourists decreased by 2,9% (from 827 886 in April 2025 to 804 163 in May 2025). Between May 2024 and May 2025, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 42,2% (from 208 316 in May 2024 to 296 138 in May 2025) and that of tourists increased by 23,8% (from 649 454 in May 2024 to 804 163 in May 2025).

Table 2 on page 3 further shows that of the 296 138 same-day visitors, a majority, 273 105 (92,2%) arrived in the country by road, 23 032 (7,8%) arrived by air and one (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. Information on tourists shows that 596 974 (74,2%) came by road, 207 046 (25,7%) used air and 143 (less than 0,1%) used sea.

Table 3 – Number of visitors by type of visitor

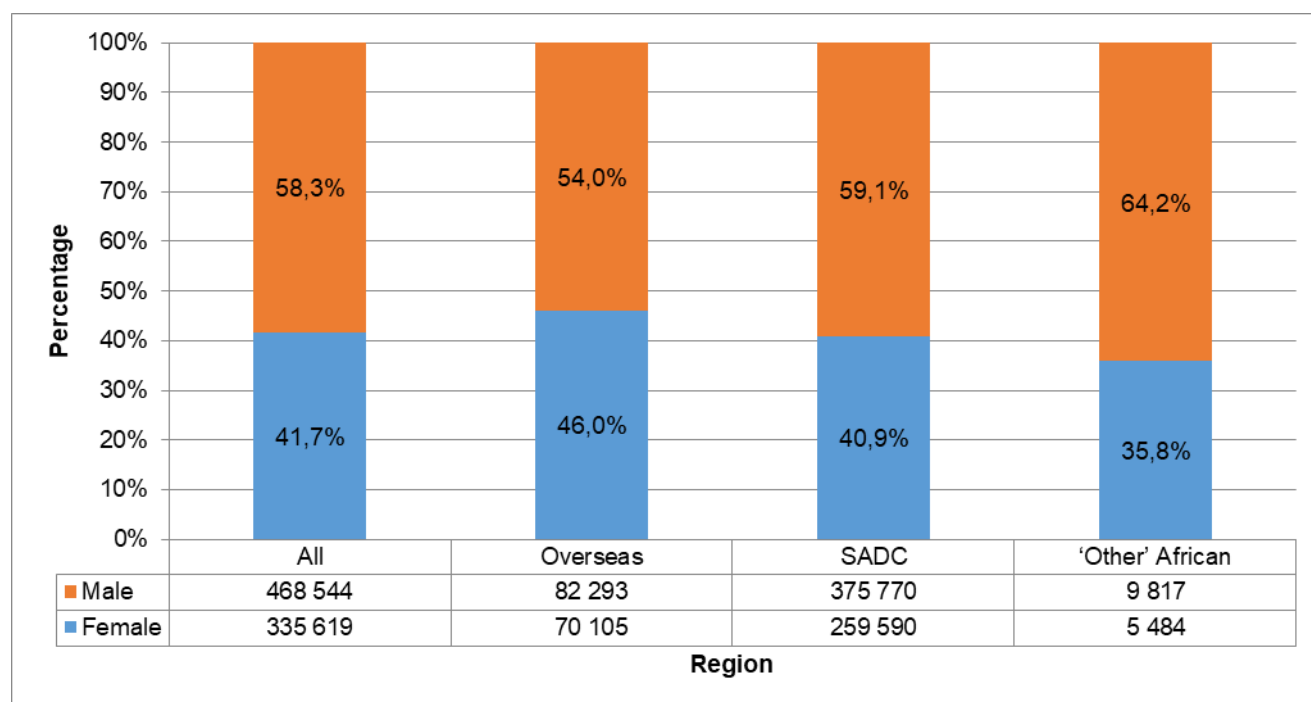
Travel Direction	May 2024	April 2025	May 2025	% Change Apr 2025 – May 2025	% Change May 2024 – May 2025
Foreign arrivals	881 544	1 115 585	1 125 559	0,9%	27,7%
Non-visitors	23 774	27 340	25 258	-7,6%	6,2%
Visitors	857 770	1 088 245	1 100 301	1,1%	28,3%
Visitors	857 770	1 088 245	1 100 301	1,1%	28,3%
Arrivals only	291 817	380 900	375 924	-1,3%	28,8%
Single trips	287 534	356 927	348 823	-2,3%	21,3%
Multiple trips	278 419	350 418	375 554	7,2%	34,9%
Visitors	857 770	1 088 245	1 100 301	1,1%	28,3%
Same-day	208 316	260 359	296 138	13,7%	42,2%
Overnight/Tourists	649 454	827 886	804 163	-2,9%	23,8%

2.3 Tourists

2.3.1 Sex and age distribution of tourists

Sex

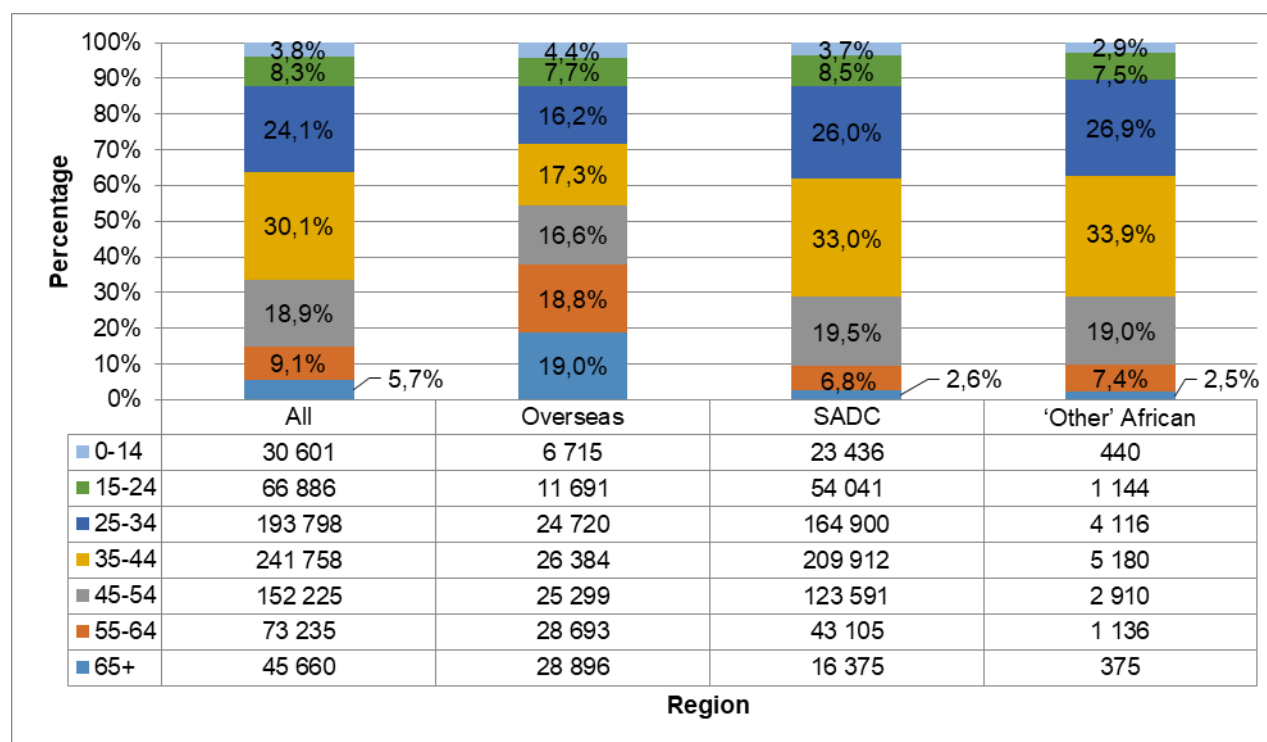
Figure 1 on page 5 shows that there were more male [468 544 (58,3%)] than female [335 619 (41,7%)] tourists. Male tourists constituted the majority of tourists for all three regions, SADC countries [375 770 (59,1%)], overseas countries [82 293 (54,0%)] and 'other' African countries [9 817 (64,2%)]. Similarly, the largest portion of female tourists was from SADC countries [259 590 (40,9%)], followed by overseas countries [70 105 (46,0%)] and 'other' African countries [5 484 (35,8%)].

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

Age

The age distribution indicates that out of all tourists, [3,8% (30 601)] were aged younger than 15; [8,3% (66 886)] were aged between 15 and 24; [24,1% (193 798)] were aged between 25 and 34; [30,1% (241 758)] were aged between 35 and 44; [18,9% (152 225)] were aged between 45 and 54; [9,1% (73 235)] were aged between 55 and 64; [5,7% (45 660)] were aged 65 and older (see Figure 2 on page 6).

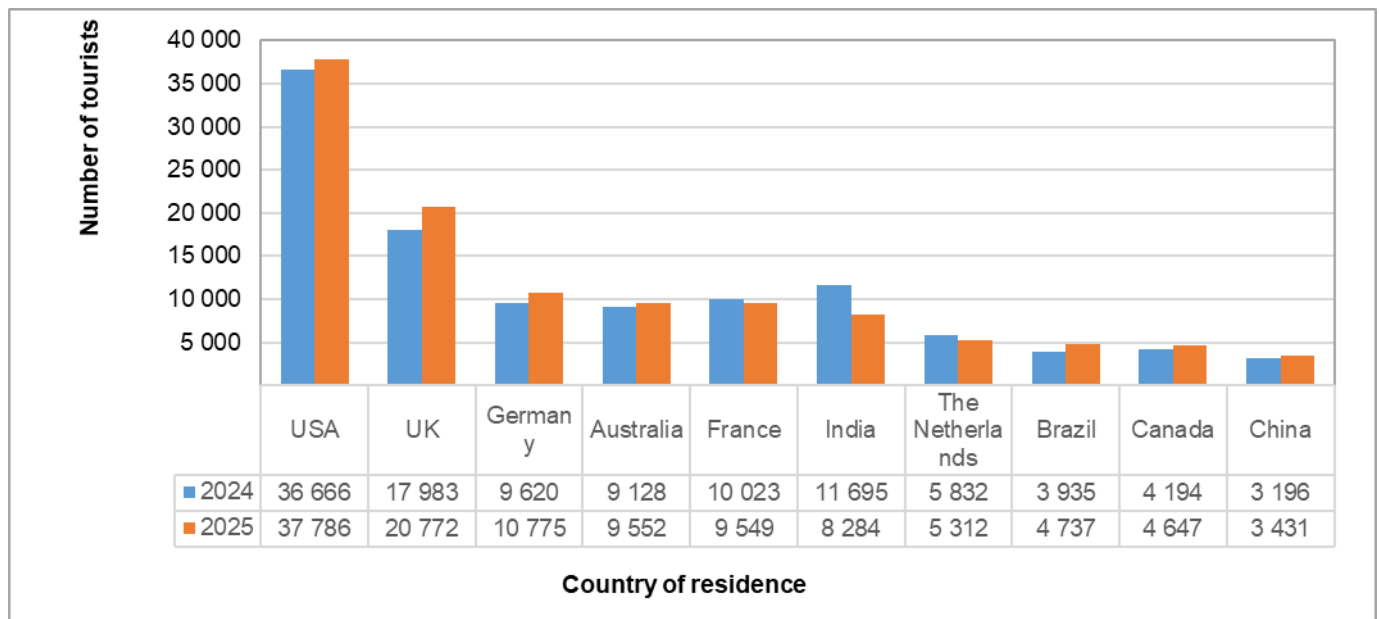
Taking the region of residence into consideration, the results show that the highest proportion of tourists from 'other' Africa countries [33,9% (5 180)], those from SADC countries [33,0% (209 912)] were aged between 35 and 44, whereas those from overseas countries [19,0% (28 896)] were aged 65 and older. The second highest proportion of tourists from 'other' African countries [26,9% (4 116)] and those from SADC countries [26,0% (164 900)] were aged between 25 and 34, whereas those from overseas countries [18,8% (28 693)] were aged between 55 and 64. The proportion of tourists aged younger than 15 was higher among tourists from overseas countries, 4,4% (6 715) compared with those from SADC countries, 3,7% (23 436) and those from 'other' African countries, 2,9% (440). The median ages of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African countries were 47, 38 and 38 years, respectively.

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

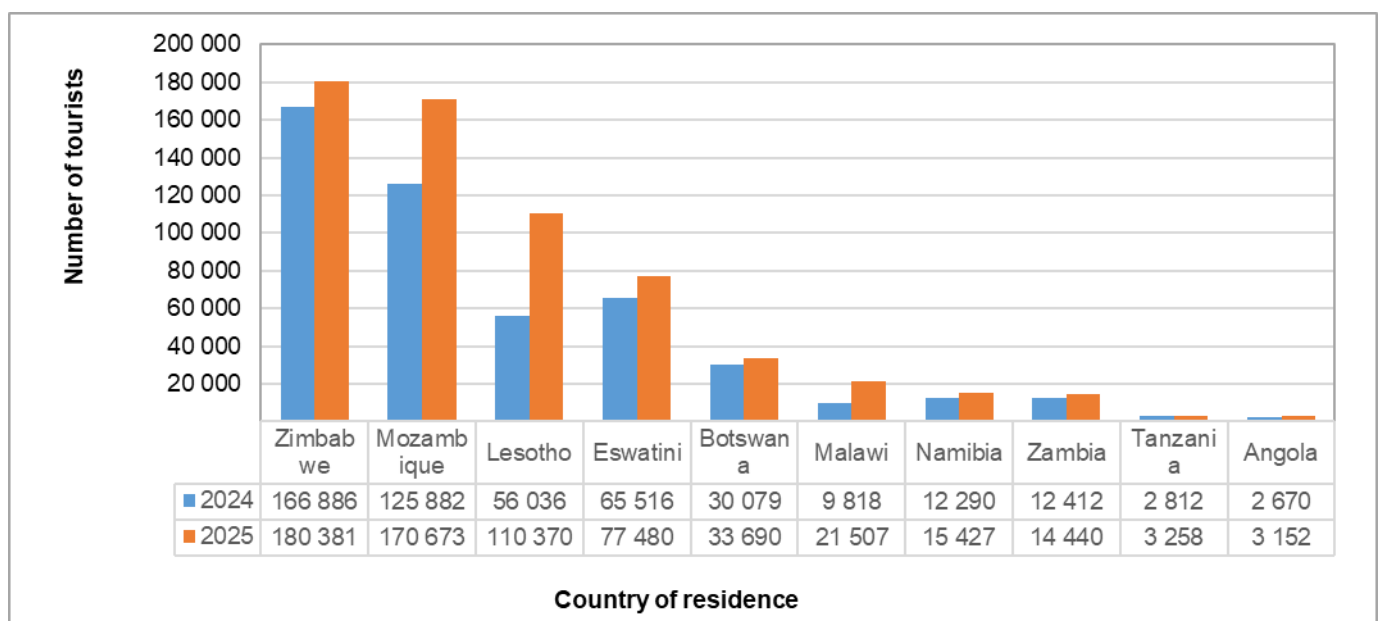
2.3.2 Regional and national distribution of tourists

In May 2025, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 68 388 (44,9%); North America, 42 433 (27,8%); Asia, 20 364 (13,4%); Australasia, 11 235 (7,4%); Central and South America, 6 941 (4,6%) and Middle East, 3 037 (2,0%) (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 May 2025 were: USA, 37 786 (24,8%); UK, 20 772 (13,6%); Germany, 10 775 (7,1%); Australia, 9 552 (6,3%); France, 9 549 (6,3%); India, 8 284 (5,4%); The Netherlands, 5 312 (3,5%); Brazil, 4 737 (3,1%); Canada, 4 647 (3,0%) and China, 3 431 (2,3%). Tourists from these 10 countries constituted 75,4% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the 10 leading countries between May 2024 and May 2025 shows that the number of tourists increased for 7 of 10 leading countries. Brazil had the highest increase of 20,4% (from 3 935 tourists in May 2024 to 4 737 tourists in May 2025).

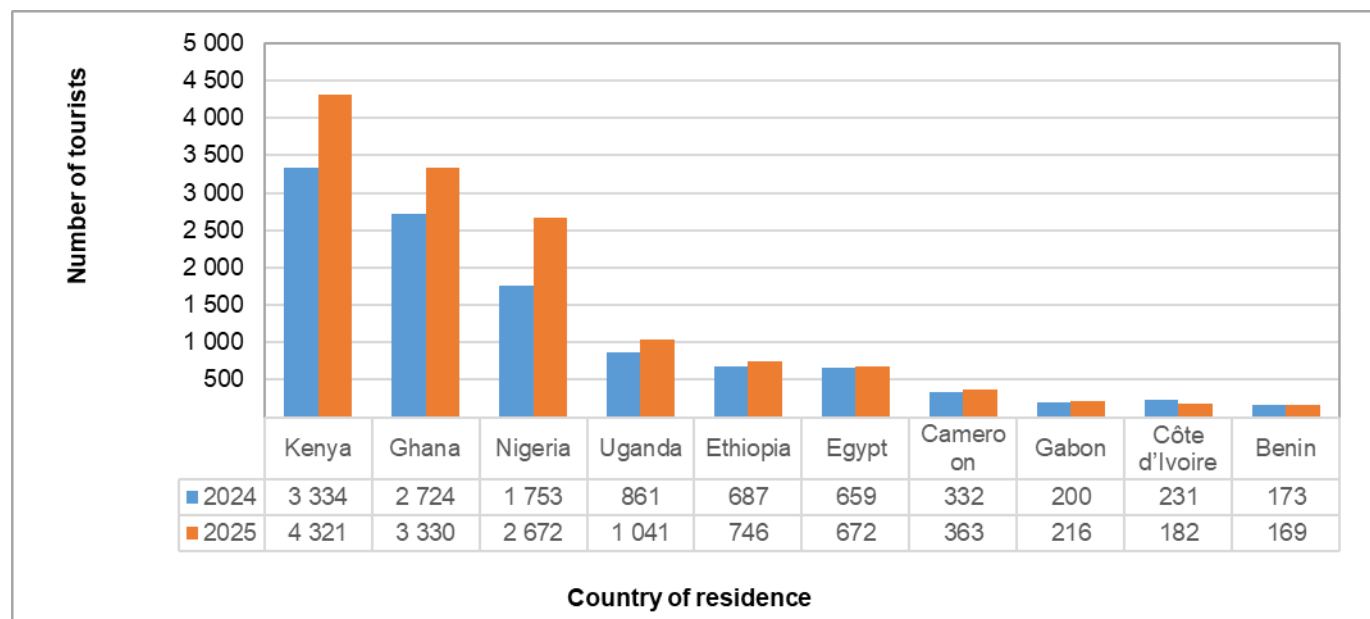
Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the 10 leading overseas countries in May 2024 and May 2025

Virtually, most tourists from Africa, 635 360 (97,6%), came from SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa was as follows: East and Central Africa, 7 153 (1,1%); West Africa, 7 017 (1,1%) and North Africa 1 131 (0,2%). Ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in May 2025 were: Zimbabwe, 180 381 (28,4%); Mozambique, 170 673 (26,9%); Lesotho, 110 370 (17,4%); Eswatini, 77 480 (12,2%); Botswana, 33 690 (5,3%); Malawi, 21 507 (3,4%); Namibia, 15 427 (2,4%); Zambia, 14 440 (2,3%); Tanzania, 3 258 (0,5%) and Angola, 3 152 (0,5%) (see Figure 4 below). Tourists from these 10 countries constituted 99,2% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison of movements in the 10 leading countries between May 2024 and May 2025 shows that the number of tourists increased for all 10 leading countries. Malawi showed the highest increase of 119,1% (from 9 818 tourists in May 2024 to 21 507 tourists in May 2025).

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

The 10 leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in May 2025 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 5 below, were: Kenya, 4 321 (28,2%); Ghana, 3 330 (21,8%); Nigeria, 2 672 (17,5%); Uganda, 1 041 (6,8%); Ethiopia, 746 (4,9%); Egypt, 672 (4,4%); Cameroon, 363 (2,4%); Gabon, 216 (1,4%); Côte d'Ivoire, 182 (1,2%) and Benin, 169 (1,1%). Tourists from these 10 countries constituted 89,6% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in May 2024 and May 2025 shows that the number of tourists increased for 8 of the 10 leading countries. Nigeria showed the highest increase of 52,4% (from 1 753 tourists in May 2024 to 2 672 tourists in May 2025).

Figure 5 – Number of tourists from the 10 leading 'other' African countries in May 2024 and May 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 May 2025, the majority of tourists, 780 806 (97,1%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 19 531 (2,4%); 3 510 (0,4%) and 316 (less than 0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and medical treatment respectively.

Within the overseas regions, Australasia, 99,3% (11 158) had the highest proportion of tourists who came for holiday, followed by North America, 98,8% (41 937); Central and South America, 98,3% (6 825); Europe, 97,5% (66 663); Middle East, 94,8% (2 878) and Asia, 94,2% (19 174).

Asia, 4,7% (967) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for business, followed by Middle East, 3,8% (116); Europe, 2,1% (1 463); Central and South America, 1,4% (98); North America, 0,9% (378) and Australasia, 0,6% (65).

Middle East, 1,4% (42) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to study, followed by Asia, 1,0% (210); Europe, 0,3% (225); Central and South America, 0,2% (17); North America, 0,2% (102) and Australasia, 0,1% (11).

Asia 0,1% (13) and Europe 0,1% (37) had the highest proportion of tourists who came for medical treatment whereas, North America (16), Middle East (1), Central and South Africa (1) and Australasia (1) had less than 0,1%.

Majority of African tourists, 631 164 (97,0%) 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 97,1% (617 175) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 91,4% (13 989) from 'other' African countries. Information on the regions of 'other' African countries shows that 92,6% (6 499) of tourists from West Africa were on holiday, followed by tourists from East and Central Africa, 91,6% (6 551) and those from North Africa, 83,0% (939).
- Business persons constituted 2,4% (15 499) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 5,5% (848) from 'other' African countries. North Africa, 13,1% (148) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes, followed by East and Central Africa, 6,1% (435) and West Africa, 3,8% (265).
- Students constituted 0,4% (2 465) of tourists from SADC countries compared with 2,9% (438) from 'other' African countries. North Africa, 3,9% (44) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes, followed by West Africa, 3,5% (243) and East and Central Africa, 2,1% (151).
- Tourists who came for medical treatment constituted less than 0,1% (221) of tourists from SADC countries, while those from 'other' African countries constituted 0,2% (26). East and Central Africa, 0,2% (16) had the highest proportion of tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by West Africa, 0,1% (10). North Africa had no tourists who came for medical treatment.

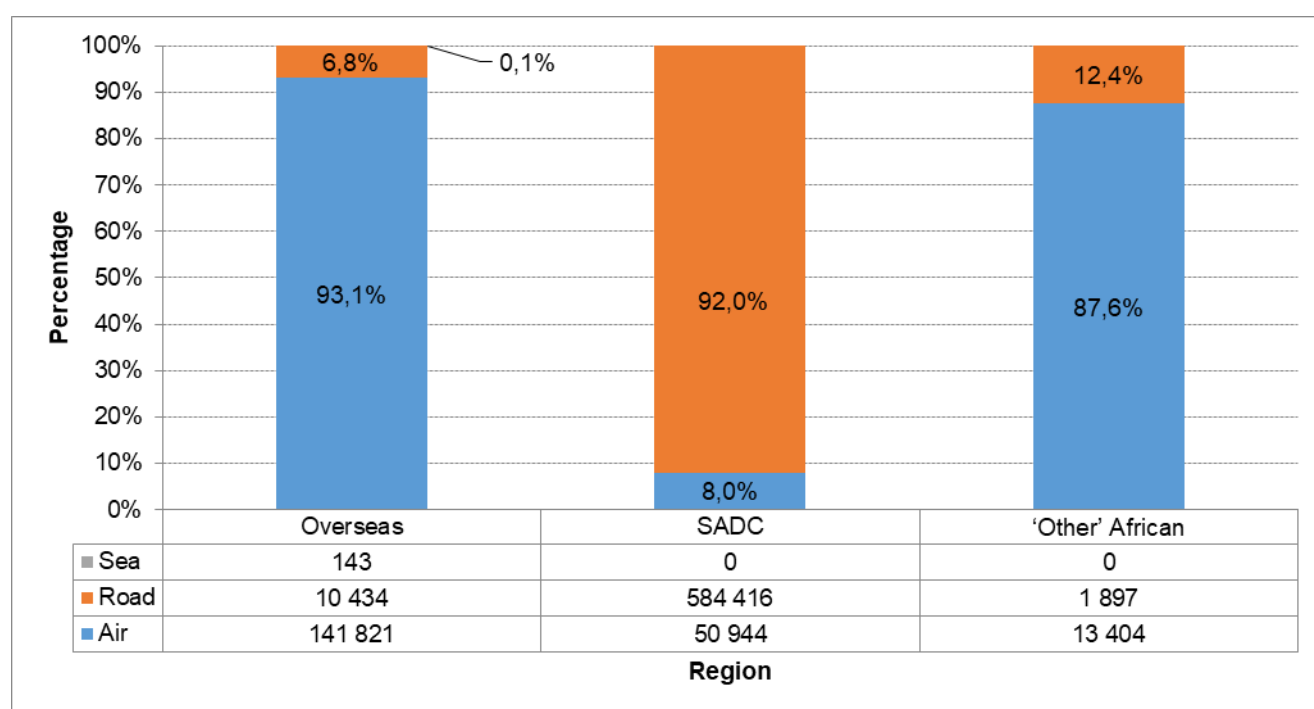
Table 4 – Number of tourists by region of residence and purpose of visit

Region of residence	May 2025	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Total	804 163	19 531	780 806	3 510	316
Overseas	152 398	3 087	148 635	607	69
Europe	68 388	1 463	66 663	225	37
North America	42 433	378	41 937	102	16
Central and South America	6 941	98	6 825	17	1
Australasia	11 235	65	11 158	11	1
Middle East	3 037	116	2 878	42	1
Asia	20 364	967	19 174	210	13
Africa	650 661	16 347	631 164	2 903	247
SADC	635 360	15 499	617 175	2 465	221
'Other' African	15 301	848	13 989	438	26
East and Central Africa	7 153	435	6 551	151	16
West Africa	7 017	265	6 499	243	10
North Africa	1 131	148	939	44	-
Unspecified	1 104	97	1 007	-	-

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 27. As shown in Figure 6 below, 141 821 (93,1%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 10 434 (6,8%) came in by road and 143 (0,1%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the SADC countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 584 416 (92,0%), 50 944 (8,0%) came by air and none arrived by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 13 404 (87,6%); while 1 897 (12,4%) used road transport and none preferred sea. Most tourists who arrived by road came through Lebombo port (169 532) and Beit Bridge port (148 253). The majority of tourists who came by air entered through OR Tambo International Airport (145 750) and Cape Town International Airport (57 608). Tourists who arrived by sea came through Durban Harbour (122) and Cape Town Harbour (21).

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



3. Annexures

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

Country of residence	May 2024	May 2025	Difference between May 2024 and May 2025	% change between May 2024 and May 2025
Total	649 454	804 163	154 709	23,8%
Overseas	147 428	152 398	4 970	3,4%
Europe	64 045	68 388	4 343	6,8%
Belgium	1 934	2 027	93	4,8%
Denmark	747	963	216	28,9%
France	10 023	9 549	-474	-4,7%
Germany	9 620	10 775	1 155	12,0%
Ireland	1 470	1 624	154	10,5%
Italy	2 595	3 008	413	15,9%
Poland	658	878	220	33,4%
Portugal	1 582	1 425	-157	-9,9%
Russian Federation	1 815	2 114	299	16,5%
Spain	1 922	2 137	215	11,2%
Switzerland	1 717	1 742	25	1,5%
The Netherlands	5 832	5 312	-520	-8,9%
Turkey	960	1 330	370	38,5%
UK	17 983	20 772	2 789	15,5%
Other	5 187	4 732	-455	-8,8%
North America	40 860	42 433	1 573	3,8%
Canada	4 194	4 647	453	10,8%
USA	36 666	37 786	1 120	3,1%
Central and South America	5 944	6 941	997	16,8%
Argentina	402	434	32	8,0%
Brazil	3 935	4 737	802	20,4%
Mexico	491	499	8	1,6%
Other	1 116	1 271	155	13,9%

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

Country of residence	May 2024	May 2025	Difference between May 2024 and May 2025	% change between May 2024 and May 2025
Australasia	10 697	11 235	538	5,0%
Australia	9 128	9 552	424	4,6%
New Zealand	1 555	1 656	101	6,5%
Other	14	27	13	92,9%
Middle East	2 815	3 037	222	7,9%
Israel	452	469	17	3,8%
Saudi Arabia	1 119	1 320	201	18,0%
United Arab Emirates	315	359	44	14,0%
Other	929	889	-40	-4,3%
Asia	23 067	20 364	-2 703	-11,7%
Bangladesh	718	562	-156	-21,7%
China	3 196	3 431	235	7,4%
India	11 695	8 284	-3 411	-29,2%
Japan	1 365	1 537	172	12,6%
Malaysia	729	831	102	14,0%
Pakistan	1 158	1 691	533	46,0%
Philippines	641	717	76	11,9%
Singapore	1 173	995	-178	-15,2%
South Korea	922	810	-112	-12,1%
Thailand	509	476	-33	-6,5%
Other	961	1 030	69	7,2%
Africa	500 928	650 661	149 733	29,9%
SADC	488 299	635 360	147 061	30,1%
Angola	2 670	3 152	482	18,1%
Botswana	30 079	33 690	3 611	12,0%
DRC	2 154	2 830	676	31,4%
Eswatini	65 516	77 480	11 964	18,3%

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

Country of residence	May 2024	May 2025	Difference between May 2024 and May 2025	% change between May 2024 and May 2025
Lesotho	56 036	110 370	54 334	97,0%
Madagascar	389	375	-14	-3,6%
Malawi	9 818	21 507	11 689	119,1%
Mauritius	1 190	1 524	334	28,1%
Mozambique	125 882	170 673	44 791	35,6%
Namibia	12 290	15 427	3 137	25,5%
Seychelles	165	253	88	53,3%
Tanzania	2 812	3 258	446	15,9%
Zambia	12 412	14 440	2 028	16,3%
Zimbabwe	166 886	180 381	13 495	8,1%
'Other' African	12 629	15 301	2 672	21,2%
East and Central Africa	5 995	7 153	1 158	19,3%
Burundi	136	92	-44	-32,4%
Cameroon	332	363	31	9,3%
Central African Republic	29	12	-17	-58,6%
Chad	37	35	-2	-5,4%
Comoros	26	25	-1	-3,8%
Congo	92	130	38	41,3%
Djibouti	9	8	-1	-11,1%
Equatorial Guinea	16	17	1	6,3%
Eritrea	46	38	-8	-17,4%
Ethiopia	687	746	59	8,6%
Gabon	200	216	16	8,0%
Kenya	3 334	4 321	987	29,6%
Réunion	9	-	-9	-100,0%
Rwanda	77	43	-34	-44,2%
São Tomé and Príncipe	12	13	1	8,3%
Somalia	92	53	-39	-42,4%
Uganda	861	1 041	180	20,9%

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

Country of residence	May 2024	May 2025	Difference between May 2024 and May 2025	% change between May 2024 and May 2025
West Africa	5 490	7 017	1 527	27,8%
Benin	173	169	-4	-2,3%
Burkina Faso	55	74	19	34,5%
Cape Verde Island	21	34	13	61,9%
Côte d'Ivoire	231	182	-49	-21,2%
Gambia	24	37	13	54,2%
Ghana	2 724	3 330	606	22,2%
Guinea	103	111	8	7,8%
Guinea-Bissau	10	5	-5	-50,0%
Liberia	38	44	6	15,8%
Mali	101	90	-11	-10,9%
Mauritania	8	16	8	100,0%
Niger	24	21	-3	-12,5%
Nigeria	1 753	2 672	919	52,4%
Saint Helena	3	5	2	66,7%
Senegal	144	141	-3	-2,1%
Sierra Leone	44	44	-	0,0%
Togo	34	42	8	23,5%
North Africa	1 144	1 131	-13	-1,1%
Algeria	51	51	-	0,0%
Egypt	659	672	13	2,0%
Libya	51	28	-23	-45,1%
Morocco	113	150	37	32,7%
South Sudan	62	41	-21	-33,9%
The Sudan	78	54	-24	-30,8%
Tunisia	128	132	4	3,1%
Western Sahara	2	3	1	50,0%
Unspecified	1 098	1 104	6	0,5%

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

Country of residence	May 2025	May 2025					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	804 163	57 608	3 449	145 750	239	207 046	596 974	143
Overseas	152 398	48 350	2 657	90 675	139	141 821	10 434	143
Europe	68 388	21 515	1 648	39 539	48	62 750	5 601	37
Belgium	2 027	549	20	1 263	-	1 832	195	5
Denmark	963	209	13	711	-	933	30	5
France	9 549	1 860	32	6 642	5	8 539	1 008	2
Germany	10 775	4 351	442	4 936	7	9 736	1 034	-
Ireland	1 624	618	58	870	-	1 546	78	1
Italy	3 008	1 119	49	1 616	-	2 784	223	1
Poland	878	257	22	500	1	780	98	-
Portugal	1 425	271	23	781	2	1 077	348	-
Russian Federation	2 114	1 097	57	797	-	1 951	163	-
Spain	2 137	606	42	1 360	2	2 010	126	-
Switzerland	1 742	616	19	937	2	1 574	168	-
The Netherlands	5 312	1 656	95	2 752	4	4 507	805	-
Turkey	1 330	583	59	605	-	1 247	83	-
UK	20 772	6 165	607	13 103	21	19 896	871	-
Other	4 732	1 558	110	2 666	4	4 338	371	23
North America	42 433	15 877	220	24 646	54	40 797	1 601	35
Canada	4 647	1 589	36	2 761	1	4 387	259	1
USA	37 786	14 288	184	21 885	53	36 410	1 342	34
Central and South America	6 941	1 742	29	4 818	2	6 591	330	20
Brazil	4 737	1 200	5	3 337	-	4 542	191	4
Mexico	499	203	5	278	-	486	10	3
Argentina	434	81	5	325	-	411	18	5
Other	1 271	258	14	878	2	1 152	111	8

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

Country of residence	May 2025	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	11 235	1 834	120	8 868	18	10 840	375	20
Australia	9 552	1 470	75	7 672	6	9 223	314	15
New Zealand	1 656	354	45	1 182	12	1 593	58	5
Other	27	10	-	14	-	24	3	-
Middle East	3 037	1 639	43	1 278	-	2 960	77	-
Saudi Arabia	1 320	1 007	10	295	-	1 312	8	-
Israel	469	123	3	308	-	434	35	-
United Arab Emirates	359	236	9	113	-	358	1	-
Other	889	273	21	562	-	856	33	-
Asia	20 364	5 743	597	11 526	17	17 883	2 450	31
India	8 284	2 721	209	4 454	7	7 391	893	-
China	3 431	856	50	2 190	3	3 099	319	13
Pakistan	1 691	117	105	917	2	1 141	550	-
Japan	1 537	456	58	954	2	1 470	67	-
Singapore	995	269	7	687	1	964	31	-
Malaysia	831	375	10	410	-	795	36	-
South Korea	810	197	29	430	-	656	147	7
Philippines	717	231	37	373	2	643	65	9
Bangladesh	562	81	45	280	-	406	156	-
Thailand	476	149	23	284	-	456	20	-
Other	1 030	291	24	547	-	862	166	2
Africa	650 661	9 136	785	54 327	100	64 348	586 313	-
SADC	635 360	5 947	723	44 185	89	50 944	584 416	-
Angola	3 152	1 151	1	1 387	24	2 563	589	-
Botswana	33 690	403	84	2 481	8	2 976	30 714	-
DRC	2 830	70	1	2 474	1	2 546	284	-
Eswatini	77 480	108	121	1 194	1	1 424	76 056	-

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

Country of residence	May 2025	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Lesotho	110 370	7	8	789	-	804	109 566	-
Madagascar	375	11	-	343	1	355	20	-
Malawi	21 507	20	8	2 641	3	2 672	18 835	-
Mauritius	1 524	334	-	1 154	-	1 488	36	-
Mozambique	170 673	224	12	4 261	4	4 501	166 172	-
Namibia	15 427	2 355	1	3 576	2	5 934	9 493	-
Seychelles	253	21	-	225	-	246	7	-
Tanzania	3 258	179	4	1 729	2	1 914	1 344	-
Zambia	14 440	98	2	4 104	17	4 221	10 219	-
Zimbabwe	180 381	966	481	17 827	26	19 300	161 081	-
'Other' African	15 301	3 189	62	10 142	11	13 404	1 897	-
East and Central Africa	7 153	1 439	13	4 838	7	6 297	856	-
Burundi	92	24	1	60	-	85	7	-
Cameroon	363	84	-	257	-	341	22	-
Central African Republic	12	2	-	10	-	12	-	-
Chad	35	6	-	29	-	35	-	-
Comoros	25	8	-	17	-	25	-	-
Congo	130	29	-	99	-	128	2	-
Djibouti	8	-	-	8	-	8	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	17	5	-	12	-	17	-	-
Eritrea	38	2	2	31	-	35	3	-
Ethiopia	746	102	-	564	-	666	80	-
Gabon	216	24	-	185	2	211	5	-
Kenya	4 321	975	9	2 680	5	3 669	652	-
Rwanda	43	5	-	24	-	29	14	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	13	2	-	9	-	11	2	-
Somalia	53	14	-	31	-	45	8	-
Uganda	1 041	157	1	822	-	980	61	-

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

Country of residence	May 2025	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	7 017	1 455	19	4 519	4	5 997	1 020	-
Benin	169	43	-	108	2	153	16	-
Burkina Faso	74	10	-	63	-	73	1	-
Cape Verde Island	34	12	-	19	-	31	3	-
Côte d'Ivoire	182	39	-	139	-	178	4	-
Gambia	37	9	-	25	-	34	3	-
Ghana	3 330	530	2	2 063	2	2 597	733	-
Guinea	111	14	1	61	-	76	35	-
Guinea-Bissau	5	1	-	-	-	1	4	-
Liberia	44	14	-	29	-	43	1	-
Mali	90	14	-	48	-	62	28	-
Mauritania	16	8	-	8	-	16	-	-
Niger	21	1	-	19	-	20	1	-
Nigeria	2 672	704	10	1 787	-	2 501	171	-
Saint Helena	5	-	-	5	-	5	-	-
Senegal	141	33	6	96	-	135	6	-
Sierra Leone	44	5	-	25	-	30	14	-
Togo	42	18	-	24	-	42	-	-
North Africa	1 131	295	30	785	-	1 110	21	-
Algeria	51	7	-	40	-	47	4	-
Egypt	672	172	7	482	-	661	11	-
Libya	28	6	-	21	-	27	1	-
Morocco	150	54	4	90	-	148	2	-
South Sudan	41	4	-	35	-	39	2	-
The Sudan	54	10	-	43	-	53	1	-
Tunisia	132	41	19	72	-	132	-	-
Western Sahara	3	1	-	2	-	3	-	-
Unspecified	1 104	122	7	748	-	877	227	-

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

Country of residence	May 2025	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical Treatment
Total	804 163	19 531	780 806	3 510	316
Overseas	152 398	3 087	148 635	607	69
Europe	68 388	1 463	66 663	225	37
Belgium	2 027	40	1 977	10	-
Denmark	963	26	936	1	-
France	9 549	113	9 384	45	7
Germany	10 775	155	10 581	38	1
Ireland	1 624	41	1 573	8	2
Italy	3 008	98	2 902	8	-
Poland	878	23	853	2	-
Portugal	1 425	27	1 397	1	-
Russian Federation	2 114	28	2 079	7	-
Spain	2 137	79	2 055	2	1
Switzerland	1 742	24	1 712	5	1
The Netherlands	5 312	103	5 184	18	7
Turkey	1 330	44	1 278	8	-
UK	20 772	486	20 230	40	16
Other	4 732	176	4 522	32	2
North America	42 433	378	41 937	102	16
Canada	4 647	52	4 589	3	3
USA	37 786	326	37 348	99	13
Central and South America	6 941	98	6 825	17	1
Argentina	434	6	427	1	-
Brazil	4 737	39	4 688	10	-
Mexico	499	9	490	-	-
Other	1 271	44	1 220	6	1

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

Country of residence	May 2025	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical Treatment
Australasia	11 235	65	11 158	11	1
Australia	9 552	47	9 496	9	-
New Zealand	1 656	13	1 641	1	1
Other	27	5	21	1	-
Middle East	3 037	116	2 878	42	1
Israel	469	17	448	4	-
Saudi Arabia	1 320	20	1 289	11	-
United Arab Emirates	359	13	342	4	-
Other	889	66	799	23	1
Asia	20 364	967	19 174	210	13
Bangladesh	562	14	545	3	-
China	3 431	227	3 178	26	-
India	8 284	453	7 717	107	7
Japan	1 537	57	1 469	9	2
Malaysia	831	20	809	2	-
Pakistan	1 691	35	1 629	25	2
Philippines	717	39	672	5	1
Singapore	995	19	975	1	-
South Korea	810	16	779	15	-
Thailand	476	11	462	3	-
Other	1 030	76	939	14	1
Africa	650 661	16 347	631 164	2 903	247
SADC	635 360	15 499	617 175	2 465	221
Angola	3 152	58	2 998	63	33
Botswana	33 690	595	32 672	414	9
DRC	2 830	71	2 563	114	82
Eswatini	77 480	1 242	76 111	121	6

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

Country of residence	May 2025	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical Treatment
Lesotho	110 370	432	109 051	861	26
Madagascar	375	8	364	2	1
Malawi	21 507	291	21 171	34	11
Mauritius	1 524	32	1 483	9	-
Mozambique	170 673	2 347	168 245	71	10
Namibia	15 427	3 374	11 775	271	7
Seychelles	253	7	244	1	1
Tanzania	3 258	103	3 116	31	8
Zambia	14 440	3 738	10 638	59	5
Zimbabwe	180 381	3 201	176 744	414	22
'Other' African	15 301	848	13 989	438	26
East and Central Africa	7 153	435	6 551	151	16
Burundi	92	10	79	3	-
Cameroon	363	35	309	16	3
Central African Republic	12	3	9	-	-
Chad	35	1	30	4	-
Comoros	25	8	17	-	-
Congo	130	4	120	3	3
Djibouti	8	1	7	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	17	1	11	4	1
Eritrea	38	-	38	-	-
Ethiopia	746	48	682	14	2
Gabon	216	2	207	6	1
Kenya	4 321	231	4 024	66	-
Rwanda	43	1	41	1	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	13	-	13	-	-
Somalia	53	1	50	1	1
Uganda	1 041	89	914	33	5

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

Country of residence	May 2025	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical Treatment
West Africa	7 017	265	6 499	243	10
Benin	169	21	143	3	2
Burkina Faso	74	11	62	-	1
Cape Verde Island	34	2	32	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	182	32	144	6	-
Gambia	37	3	33	1	-
Ghana	3 330	64	3 236	26	4
Guinea	111	5	103	2	1
Guinea-Bissau	5	-	5	-	-
Liberia	44	4	38	1	1
Mali	90	7	82	1	-
Mauritania	16	4	12	-	-
Niger	21	-	21	-	-
Nigeria	2 672	91	2 380	200	1
Saint Helena	5	-	5	-	-
Senegal	141	12	128	1	-
Sierra Leone	44	1	41	2	-
Togo	42	8	34	-	-
North Africa	1 131	148	939	44	-
Algeria	51	3	45	3	-
Egypt	672	89	562	21	-
Libya	28	2	21	5	-
Morocco	150	23	125	2	-
South Sudan	41	3	35	3	-
The Sudan	54	2	44	8	-
Tunisia	132	25	105	2	-
Western Sahara	3	1	2	-	-
Unspecified	1 104	97	1 007	-	-

3.4 Annexure D – Number of tourists' difference between Jan – May 2024 and Jan – May 2025 by country of residence

Country of residence	Jan – May 2024	Jan – May 2025	Difference between Jan – May 2024 and Jan – May 2025	% change between Jan – May 2024 and Jan – May 2025
Total	3 799 963	4 220 586	420 623	11,1%
Overseas	929 667	971 678	42 011	4,5%
Europe	577 985	606 076	28 091	4,9%
Austria	9 948	10 537	589	5,9%
Belgium	18 795	19 719	924	4,9%
Denmark	9 117	9 814	697	7,6%
France	57 189	57 020	-169	-0,3%
Germany	122 705	126 514	3 809	3,1%
Ireland	13 234	13 458	224	1,7%
Italy	16 970	18 463	1 493	8,8%
Portugal	9 544	8 260	-1 284	-13,5%
Russian Federation	13 920	17 323	3 403	24,4%
Spain	10 756	10 529	-227	-2,1%
Sweden	12 433	13 027	594	4,8%
Switzerland	19 102	20 156	1 054	5,5%
The Netherlands	54 880	56 250	1 370	2,5%
UK	168 394	182 340	13 946	8,3%
Other	40 998	42 666	1 668	4,1%
North America	172 740	176 485	3 745	2,2%
Canada	25 646	27 208	1 562	6,1%
USA	147 094	149 277	2 183	1,5%
Central and South America	30 371	35 400	5 029	16,6%
Argentina	2 485	3 815	1 330	53,5%
Brazil	19 998	22 673	2 675	13,4%
Mexico	1 934	1 932	-2	-0,1%
Other	5 954	6 980	1 026	17,2%

Annexure D – Number of tourists' difference between Jan – May 2024 and Jan – May 2025 by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	Jan – May 2024	Jan – May 2025	Difference between Jan – May 2024 and Jan – May 2025	% change between Jan – May 2024 and Jan – May 2025
Australasia	45 245	51 650	6 405	14,2%
Australia	37 595	43 264	5 669	15,1%
New Zealand	7 575	8 228	653	8,6%
Other	75	158	83	110,7%
Middle East	14 066	14 253	187	1,3%
Iran	1 684	1 432	-252	-15,0%
Israel	3 433	3 640	207	6,0%
Saudi Arabia	4 504	4 529	25	0,6%
Other	4 445	4 652	207	4,7%
Asia	89 260	87 814	-1 446	-1,6%
Bangladesh	2 656	2 763	107	4,0%
China	17 141	17 342	201	1,2%
India	34 068	30 819	-3 249	-9,5%
Japan	7 671	7 957	286	3,7%
Malaysia	2 444	2 471	27	1,1%
Pakistan	5 386	7 270	1 884	35,0%
Philippines	2 524	2 651	127	5,0%
Singapore	3 501	2 727	-774	-22,1%
South Korea	5 992	6 152	160	2,7%
Thailand	2 297	2 183	-114	-5,0%
Other	5 580	5 479	-101	-1,8%
Africa	2 865 510	3 244 005	378 495	13,2%
SADC	2 801 604	3 168 346	366 742	13,1%
Angola	15 999	16 959	960	6,0%
Botswana	149 475	158 733	9 258	6,2%
DRC	11 173	14 772	3 599	32,2%
Eswatini	325 764	371 575	45 811	14,1%

Annexure D – Number of tourists' difference between Jan – May 2024 and Jan – May 2025 by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	Jan – May 2024	Jan – May 2025	Difference between Jan – May 2024 and Jan – May 2025	% change between Jan – May 2024 and Jan – May 2025
Lesotho	444 680	595 814	151 134	34,0%
Madagascar	1 806	1 736	-70	-3,9%
Malawi	58 201	93 408	35 207	60,5%
Mauritius	7 484	8 137	653	8,7%
Mozambique	662 778	807 628	144 850	21,9%
Namibia	64 016	70 092	6 076	9,5%
Seychelles	1 884	2 006	122	6,5%
Tanzania	14 475	16 347	1 872	12,9%
Zambia	63 055	64 690	1 635	2,6%
Zimbabwe	980 814	946 449	-34 365	-3,5%
'Other' African	63 906	75 659	11 753	18,4%
East and Central Africa	31 403	36 259	4 856	15,5%
Burundi	538	468	-70	-13,0%
Cameroon	1 708	1 990	282	16,5%
Central African Republic	88	67	-21	-23,9%
Chad	159	208	49	30,8%
Comoros	93	125	32	34,4%
Congo	569	763	194	34,1%
Djibouti	36	43	7	19,4%
Equatorial Guinea	124	105	-19	-15,3%
Eritrea	198	185	-13	-6,6%
Ethiopia	2 943	3 538	595	20,2%
Gabon	1 371	1 325	-46	-3,4%
Kenya	17 607	21 155	3 548	20,2%
Réunion	39	14	-25	-64,1%
Rwanda	453	307	-146	-32,2%
São Tomé and Príncipe	48	48	-	0,0%
Somalia	398	322	-76	-19,1%
Uganda	5 031	5 596	565	11,2%

Annexure D – Number of tourists' difference between Jan – May 2024 and Jan – May 2025 by country of residence (concluded)

Country of residence	Jan – May 2024	Jan – May 2025	Difference between Jan – May 2024 and Jan – May 2025	% change between Jan – May 2024 and Jan – May 2025
West Africa	27 137	32 996	5 859	21,6%
Benin	733	828	95	13,0%
Burkina Faso	245	348	103	42,0%
Cape Verde Island	132	136	4	3,0%
Côte d'Ivoire	965	927	-38	-3,9%
Gambia	153	180	27	17,6%
Ghana	13 247	16 080	2 833	21,4%
Guinea	512	510	-2	-0,4%
Guinea-Bissau	39	54	15	38,5%
Liberia	181	261	80	44,2%
Mali	387	465	78	20,2%
Mauritania	81	106	25	30,9%
Niger	122	125	3	2,5%
Nigeria	9 304	11 788	2 484	26,7%
Saint Helena	11	13	2	18,2%
Senegal	637	658	21	3,3%
Sierra Leone	233	258	25	10,7%
Togo	155	259	104	67,1%
North Africa	5 366	6 404	1 038	19,3%
Algeria	292	452	160	54,8%
Egypt	2 442	3 301	859	35,2%
Libya	294	231	-63	-21,4%
Morocco	722	771	49	6,8%
South Sudan	304	221	-83	-27,3%
The Sudan	374	370	-4	-1,1%
Tunisia	927	1 050	123	13,3%
Western Sahara	11	8	-3	-27,3%
Unspecified	4 786	4 903	117	2,4%

3.7 Annexure E – Number of tourists' difference between May 2019 and May 2025 by port of entry and province (excluding ports in May 2019 with missing data in May 2025)

Port of entry and province	May 2019	May 2025	Difference between May 2019 and May 2025	% Change between May 2019 and May 2025
Total	733 570	804 163	70 593	9,6%
Western Cape	44 760	57 629	12 869	28,8%
Cape Town Harbour	39	21	-18	-46,2%
Cape Town International Airport	44 721	57 608	12 887	28,8%
Eastern Cape	4 131	1 991	-2 140	-51,8%
Telle Bridge	4 131	1 991	-2 140	-51,8%
Northern Cape	7 391	8 707	1 316	17,8%
Nakop	3 090	4 771	1 681	54,4%
Vioolsdrift	4 301	3 936	-365	-8,5%
Free State	110 582	108 690	-1 892	-1,7%
Caledonspoort	9 099	11 739	2 640	29,0%
Ficksburg	44 760	42 844	-1 916	-4,3%
Maseru Bridge	45 692	52 197	6 505	14,2%
Van Rooyens Gate	11 031	1 910	-9 121	-82,7%
KwaZulu Natal	21 421	25 384	3 963	18,5%
Durban Harbour	4	122	118	2950,0%
King Shaka International Airport	3 207	3 449	242	7,5%
Golela	13 399	12 232	-1 167	-8,7%
Kosibay	4 811	9 581	4 770	99,1%
North West	43 828	37 604	-6 224	-14,2%
Kopfontein	25 240	22 502	-2 738	-10,8%
Ramatlabama	7 605	6 565	-1 040	-13,7%
Skilpad Gate	10 983	8 537	-2 446	-22,3%
Gauteng	149 034	145 989	-3 045	-2,0%
Lanseria International Airport	249	239	-10	-4,0%
OR Tambo International Airport	148 785	145 750	-3 035	-2,0%
Mpumalanga	182 997	249 382	66 385	36,3%
Emahlatini	4 870	5 266	396	8,1%
Jeppes Reef	11 884	13 672	1 788	15,0%
Lebombo	109 060	169 532	60 472	55,4%
Mahamba	8 624	7 607	-1 017	-11,8%
Mananga	9 063	9 908	845	9,3%
Nerston	1 153	609	-544	-47,2%
Oshoek	38 343	42 788	4 445	11,6%
Limpopo	169 426	168 787	-639	-0,4%
Beit Bridge	150 675	148 253	-2 422	-1,6%
Groblers Bridge	18 751	20 534	1 783	9,5%

3.8 Annexure F – Number of tourists' difference between May 2024 and May 2025 by port of entry and province (excluding ports in May 2025 with missing data in May 2024)

Port of entry and province	May 2024	May 2025	Difference between May 2024 and May 2025	% Change between May 2024 and May 2025
Total	649 454	751 966	102 512	15,8%
Western Cape	56 308	57 629	1 321	2,3%
Cape Town Harbour	1 827	21	-1 806	-98,9%
Cape Town International Airport	54 481	57 608	3 127	5,7%
Eastern Cape	2 930	1 991	-939	-32,0%
Telle Bridge	2 930	1 991	-939	-32,0%
Northern Cape	7 814	8 707	893	11,4%
Nakop	4 302	4 771	469	10,9%
Vioolsdrift	3 512	3 936	424	12,1%
Free State	51 289	56 493	5 204	10,1%
Caledonspoort	10 072	11 739	1 667	16,6%
Ficksburg	35 760	42 844	7 084	19,8%
Van Rooyens Gate	5 457	1 910	-3 547	-65,0%
KwaZulu Natal	20 696	25 384	4 688	22,7%
Durban Habour	9	122	113	1255,6%
King Shaka International Airport	2 919	3 449	530	18,2%
Golela	11 062	12 232	1 170	10,6%
Kosibay	6 706	9 581	2 875	42,9%
North West	33 637	37 604	3 967	11,8%
Kopfontein	19 630	22 502	2 872	14,6%
Ramatlabama	6 190	6 565	375	6,1%
Skilpad Gate	7 817	8 537	720	9,2%
Gauteng	131 010	145 989	14 979	11,4%
Lanseria International Airport	207	239	32	15,5%
OR Tambo International Airport	130 803	145 750	14 947	11,4%
Mpumalanga	199 792	249 382	49 590	24,8%
Emahlatini	3 987	5 266	1 279	32,1%
Jeppes Reef	9 695	13 672	3 977	41,0%
Lebombo	131 355	169 532	38 177	29,1%
Mahamba	6 722	7 607	885	13,2%
Mananga	11 789	9 908	-1 881	-16,0%
Nerston	698	609	-89	-12,8%
Oshoek	35 546	42 788	7 242	20,4%
Limpopo	145 978	168 787	22 809	15,6%
Beit Bridge	127 812	148 253	20 441	16,0%
Groblers Bridge	18 166	20 534	2 368	13,0%

3.8 Annexure G – Number of tourists' difference between Jan – May 2024 and Jan – May 2025 by port of entry and province (excluding ports with missing data between Jan – May, 2024 – 2025)

Port of entry and province	Jan – May 2024	Jan – May 2025	Difference between Jan – May 2024 and Jan – May 2025	% change between Jan – May 2024 and Jan – May 2025
Total	3 676 814	3 953 452	276 638	7,5%
Western Cape	469 074	477 565	8 491	1,8%
Cape Town Harbour	9 572	5 713	-3 859	-40,3%
Cape Town International Airport	459 502	471 852	12 350	2,7%
Eastern Cape	17 672	14 907	-2 765	-15,6%
Telle Bridge	17 672	14 907	-2 765	-15,6%
Northern Cape	41 549	44 107	2 558	6,2%
Nakop	20 408	21 769	1 361	6,7%
Vioolsdrift	21 141	22 338	1 197	5,7%
Free State	305 150	318 481	13 331	4,4%
Caledonspoort	59 648	60 138	490	0,8%
Ficksburg	215 011	235 091	20 080	9,3%
Van Rooyens Gate	30 491	23 252	-7 239	-23,7%
KwaZulu Natal	120 250	135 058	14 808	12,3%
Durban Harbour Passengers	3 248	2 862	-386	-11,9%
Golela	60 228	64 786	4 558	7,6%
King Shaka International Airport	15 062	16 736	1 674	11,1%
Kosibay	41 712	50 674	8 962	21,5%
North West	164 887	185 492	20 605	12,5%
Kopfontein	96 717	111 752	15 035	15,5%
Ramathlabama	30 025	31 422	1 397	4,7%
Skilpad Gate	38 145	42 318	4 173	10,9%
Gauteng	665 570	737 787	72 217	10,9%
Lanseria International Airport	1 089	1 200	111	10,2%
Oliver Tambo International Airport	664 481	736 587	72 106	10,9%
Mpumalanga	1 006 077	1 168 528	162 451	16,1%
Emahlatini	17 948	25 004	7 056	39,3%
Jeppes Reef	49 148	65 557	16 409	33,4%
Lebombo	670 307	785 277	114 970	17,2%
Mahamba	32 091	37 505	5 414	16,9%
Mananga	55 170	48 008	-7 162	-13,0%
Nerston	2 680	1 268	-1 412	-52,7%
Oshoek	178 733	205 909	27 176	15,2%
Limpopo	886 585	871 527	-15 058	-1,7%
Beit Bridge	790 647	782 545	-8 102	-1,0%
Groblers Bridge	95 938	88 982	-6 956	-7,3%

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/decrease in the volume of passengers reported by ACSA is

also reflected with an increase/decrease in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. Based on the trend for May 2022 to May 2024, the DHA data was on average 7,0% lower than that of ACSA².

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.

² ACSA passenger statistics for May 2025 have not yet been published due to internal challenges at ACSA. As a result, it was not feasible to compare international arrivals statistics reported by DHA to those reported by ACSA for May 2025, and average figures for May 2022 to May 2024 were used for this exercise.

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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