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## **STATISTICAL RELEASE**

### **P0351**

# **Tourism and migration**

**April 2021**

**Embargoed until:  
29 June 2021  
10:00**

**ENQUIRIES:**

**Tshwaro Gae**

**079 511 9917**

**FORTHCOMING ISSUE:**

**May 2021**

**EXPECTED RELEASE DATE**

**27 July 2021**

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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 April 2021. Specific focus is on foreign tourists who entered the country during this month. The tourists are classified by region and country of residence. Details of their mode of travel; purpose of visit; age and sex distribution are also provided.

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**Statistician-General**

## 1. Key findings

### 1.1 Travellers

#### 1.1.1 Number of travellers

The routine data collected by the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into and out of South Africa shows that a total of 716 875 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry/exit in April 2021. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 244 033 South African residents and 472 842 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 117 557 arrivals, 126 417 departures and 59 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 248 314, 218 493 and 6 035 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in April 2020 and April 2021 are not included as there was a hard lockdown in April 2020 and only essential services providers were allowed to travel.

A comparison between the movements in March 2021 and April 2021 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures increased for both groups of travellers. Travellers in transits decreased for South African residents but increased for foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 13,1% (from 103 933 in March 2021 to 117 557 in April 2021), departures increased by 14,0% (from 110 871 in March 2021 to 126 417 in April 2021) and transits decreased by 3,3% (from 61 in March 2021 to 59 in April 2021). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 11,3% (from 223 135 in March 2021 to 248 314 in April 2021), departures increased by 13,1% (from 193 117 in March 2021 to 218 493 in April 2021) and transits increased by 30,0% (from 4 641 in March 2021 to 6 035 in April 2021).

Detailed information on the departure of travellers is not available in the movement control system. Data on the purpose of travel and the number of days South African residents intend to spend or spent abroad are not collected by the DHA. It is therefore not possible to categorise South African residents as tourists or non-tourists. However, some data are available on foreign arrivals for this categorisation.

As presented in Table 1 on page 9, in April 2021, 40 677 (16,4%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 207 637 (83,6%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in April 2021 but did not depart in April 2021 [77 232 (37,2%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in April 2021 and left in April 2021 [57 219 (27,6%)];  
and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in April 2021 [73 186 (35,2%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In April 2021, there were 30 386 (14,6%) same-day visitors and 177 251 (85,4%) tourists. Between March 2021 and April 2021, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 11,6% (from 27 232 in March 2021 to 30 386 in April 2021) and that of tourists increased by 12,4% (from 157 638 in March 2021 to 177 251 in April 2021).

### 1.1.2 Mode of travel of travellers

Information presented in Table 2 on page 10, shows that in April 2021, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 538 587 (75,1%) of the 716 875 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 173 865 (24,3%). Compared to the use of air and land transport, a smaller number of travellers, 4 423 (0,6%) used sea transport. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 34 134 (29,0%) came by air, 83 238 (70,8%) came by road and 185 (0,2%) arrived by sea transport. For departures, 38 761 (30,7%) used air, 87 428 (69,2%) used road and 228 (0,2%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 59 (100,0%) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 48 751 (19,6%) arrived by air, 197 509 (79,5%) came by road and 2 054 (0,8%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 46 125 (21,1%) foreign travellers left by air, 170 412 (78,0%) left by road and 1 956 (0,9%) left by sea transport. All travellers in transit, 6 035 (100,0%) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that of the 30 386 same-day visitors, a majority, 27 291 (89,8%) arrived in the country by road, 3 093 (10,2%) flew into the country; and two (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport. Information on tourists shows that 137 920 (77,8%) used road transport, 39 329 (22,2%) came by air transport and two (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport.

## 1.2 Tourists

### 1.2.1 Mode of travel of tourists

The country of residence of tourists is used to categorise them according to their respective countries and regions. Information on the specific region and country of residence of tourists and the mode of travel used to enter South Africa is provided in Table 3 on pages 11 to 14. In April 2021, 17 642 (88,6%) of the 19 915 overseas tourists arrived in the country by air transport, whilst 2 271 (11,4%) came in by road transport and two (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 135 244 (88,3%) and 17 927 (11,7%) came by air. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 3 605 (93,5%), with 250 (6,5%) using road transport.

### 1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In April 2021, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 10 895 (54,7%); North America, 4 061 (20,4%); Asia, 3 527 (17,7%); Central and South America, 587 (2,9%); The Middle East, 530 (2,7%) and Australasia, 315 (1,6%).

Figure 1 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 11 to 12, indicate that the ten leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in April 2021 were: United States of America (USA), 3 763 (18,9%); United Kingdom (UK), 2 049 (10,3%); Germany, 1 772 (8,9%); India, 1 201 (6,0%); France, 1 088 (5,5%); Russian Federation, 1 026 (5,2%); The Netherlands, 1 009 (5,1%); China, 649 (3,3%); Pakistan, 616 (3,1%) and Belgium, 471 (2,4%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 68,5% of all tourists from overseas countries.

Virtually, most tourists from Africa, 153 171 (97,5%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 1 896 (1,2%); East and Central Africa, 1 584 (1,0%) and North Africa 375 (0,2%). The ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in April 2021 were: Mozambique 44 521 (29,1%); Zimbabwe, 34 155 (22,3%); Lesotho, 29 679 (19,4%); Eswatini, 15 290 (10,0%); Namibia, 8 603 (5,6%); Botswana, 8 593 (5,6%); Zambia, 5 530 (3,6%); Malawi, 3 997 (2,6%); Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), 1 112 (0,7%) and Tanzania, 1 005 (0,7%) (see Figure 2 on page 7 and Table 3 on pages 12). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,6% of all tourists from the SADC countries.

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in April 2021 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8 and Table 3 on pages 13 to 14, were: Nigeria, 1 092 (28,3%); Ghana, 572 (14,8%); Kenya, 535 (13,9%); Uganda 421 (10,9%); Ethiopia, 235 (6,1%); Cameroon, 142 (3,7%); Egypt, 130 (3,4%); Gabon, 113 (2,9%); Algeria, 80 (2,1%) and Congo, 58 (1,5%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 87,6% of all tourists from 'other' African countries.

### 1.2.3 Purpose of visit

As observed in Table 4 on pages 15 to 18, in April 2021, the majority of tourists, 161 153 (90,9%), were in South Africa for holiday<sup>1</sup> compared to 12 936 (7,3%); 2 872 (1,6%) and 290 (0,2%) who were in South Africa for business, study and for medical treatment respectively.

Within the overseas regions, Australasia had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for holiday, 97,8% (308) followed by North America, 97,4% (3 956); Europe, 95,6% (10 414); Central and South America, 94,5% (555); Asia, 92,7% (3 270) and The Middle East, 91,9% (487).

Asia, 3,7% (131) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business, followed by Europe, 2,8% (303); Central and South America, 2,0% (12); The Middle East, 1,9% (10); North America, 1,7% (69) and Australasia, 1,3% (4).

The Middle East, 6,0% (32) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to study, followed by Asia, 3,0% (105); Central and South America, 2,9% (17); Europe, 1,4% (150); Australasia, 1,0% (3) and North America, 0,7% (30).

Asia had 0,6% (21) of its tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by Central and South America, 0,5% (3); Europe, 0,3% (28); The Middle East, 0,2% (1) and North America, 0,1% (6). Australasia had no tourists who came to South Africa for medical treatment.

The majority of African tourists, 141 857 (90,3%) came to South Africa for holiday. However, the following differences in terms of reasons for travel were observed between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- Holiday makers constituted 90,4% (138 498) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 87,1% (3 359) from 'other' African countries. Information on the regions of 'other' African countries shows that 90,1% (1 708) of tourists from West Africa were on holiday, followed by tourists from North Africa, 89,9% (337) and East and Central Africa 83,0% (1 314).
- Business persons constituted 8,0% (12 289) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 3,0% (114) from 'other' African countries. East and Central Africa, 4,4% (69) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes, followed by North Africa, 2,1% (8) and West Africa, 2,0% (37).
- Students constituted 9,1% (350) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 1,4% (2 185) from SADC countries. East and Central Africa, 11,1% (176) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes, followed by North Africa, 7,7% (29) and West Africa, 7,6% (145).
- Medical treatment tourists constituted 0,8% (32) of tourists from 'other' African countries, while those from SADC constituted 0,1% (199) of its tourists. East and Central Africa, 1,6% (25) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by West Africa, 0,3% (6) and North Africa, 0,3% (1).

### 1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 19 shows that in April 2021, there were 120 748 (68,1%) male and 56 503 (31,9%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 12 231 (61,4%) male tourists and 7 684 (38,6%) female tourists. There were 105 815 (69,1%) male and 47 356 (30,9%) female tourists from SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 2 494 (64,7%) male and 1 361 (35,3%) female tourists.

The ages of the tourists were categorised into seven broad groups (see Table 5 for a detailed classification). The results presented in Table 5 further show that the majority of tourists were aged between 35 and 44 years [61 748 (34,8%)].

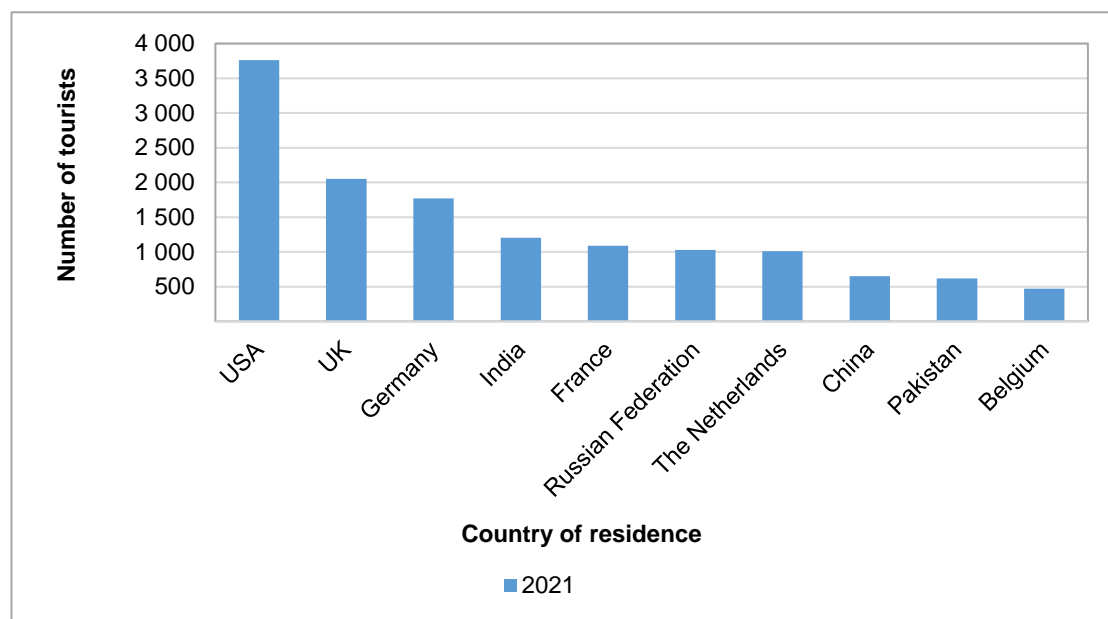
<sup>1</sup> The holiday category includes tourists who came for vacation, visiting friends and relatives, shopping and other personal reasons. See section 4.5.2 on page 21 for a more detailed discussion.

Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results show that the highest proportion of tourists from SADC countries [56 182 (36,7%)] and those from 'other' African countries [1 223 (31,7%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years, whereas those from overseas countries [4 579 (23,0%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years. The second highest proportion of tourists from 'other' African countries [1 150 (29,8%)] and SADC countries [34 697 (22,7%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years, whereas those from overseas countries [4 251 (21,3%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years. The median ages of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African countries were 39, 39 and 35 years respectively. The proportion of tourists younger than 15 years was higher among tourists from overseas countries, 7,4% (1 483) and 'other' African countries, 5,8% (223) compared to those from SADC countries, 3,1% (4 789).

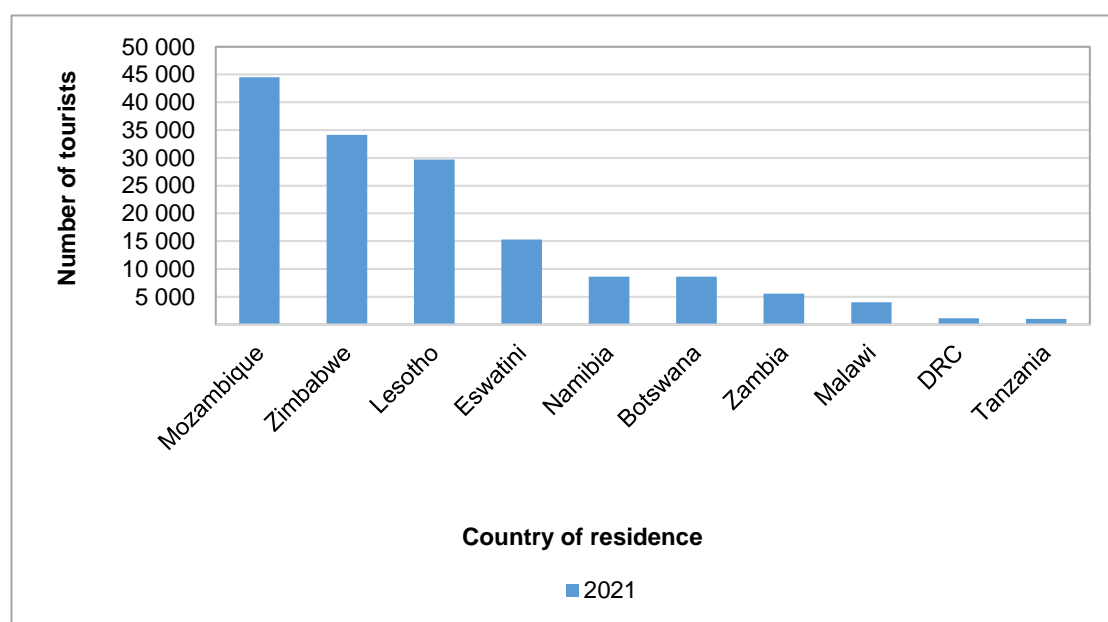
A comparison of the three regions shows higher proportions of the elderly among both male and female tourists from overseas. Overseas tourists had the highest proportion of tourists aged 65 years and older. This comprised of 7,4% (901) males and 7,7% (590) females. However, tourists aged 65 years and older from the other two regions comprised of less than 3,5% of both male and female tourists: from SADC countries, elderly tourists were made up of 1,8% (1 871) males and 3,3% (1 541) females; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 1,9% (47) and 2,9% (40) of male and female tourists respectively.

## 2. Figures

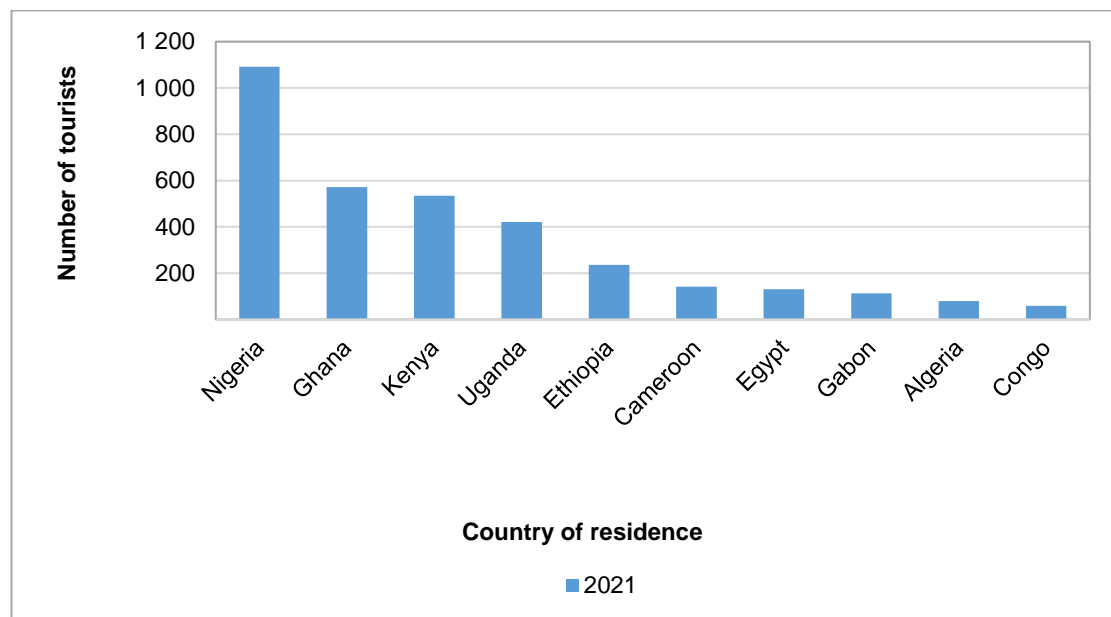
**Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in April 2021**



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





**Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in April 2021**

### 3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	March 2020	April 2021	% Change Mar 2021 – Apr 2021
<b>Total</b>	<b>635 758</b>	<b>716 875</b>	<b>12,8%</b>
<b>South African residents</b>	<b>214 865</b>	<b>244 033</b>	<b>13,6%</b>
Arrivals	103 933	117 557	13,1%
Departures	110 871	126 417	14,0%
Transits	61	59	-3,3%
<b>Foreign travellers</b>	<b>420 893</b>	<b>472 842</b>	<b>12,3%</b>
Arrivals	223 135	248 314	11,3%
Departures	193 117	218 493	13,1%
Transits	4 641	6 035	30,0%
<b>Foreign arrivals</b>	<b>223 135</b>	<b>248 314</b>	<b>11,3%</b>
Non-visitors	38 265	40 677	6,3%
Visitors	184 870	207 637	12,3%
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>184 870</b>	<b>207 637</b>	<b>12,3%</b>
Arrivals only	66 905	77 232	15,4%
Single trips	46 907	57 219	22,0%
Multiple trips	71 058	73 186	3,0%
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>184 870</b>	<b>207 637</b>	<b>12,3%</b>
Same-day	27 232	30 386	11,6%
Overnight (Tourists)	157 638	177 251	12,4%

**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>716 875</b>	<b>27 870</b>	<b>1 831</b>	<b>142 037</b>	<b>2 127</b>	<b>173 865</b>	<b>538 587</b>	<b>4 423</b>
<b>South African residents</b>	<b>244 033</b>	<b>10 064</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>60 545</b>	<b>1 555</b>	<b>72 954</b>	<b>170 666</b>	<b>413</b>
Arrivals	<b>117 557</b>	3 898	371	29 098	767	<b>34 134</b>	83 238	185
Departures	<b>126 417</b>	6 166	419	31 388	788	<b>38 761</b>	87 428	228
Transit	<b>59</b>	-	-	59	-	<b>59</b>	-	-
<b>Foreign travellers</b>	<b>472 842</b>	<b>17 806</b>	<b>1 041</b>	<b>81 492</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>100 911</b>	<b>367 921</b>	<b>4 010</b>
Arrivals	<b>248 314</b>	8 300	564	39 585	302	<b>48 751</b>	197 509	2 054
Departures	<b>218 493</b>	9 495	477	35 883	270	<b>46 125</b>	170 412	1 956
Transit	<b>6 035</b>	11	-	6 024	-	<b>6 035</b>	-	-
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>207 637</b>	<b>6 925</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>35 133</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>42 422</b>	<b>165 211</b>	<b>4</b>
Same-day	<b>30 386</b>	62	-	3 018	13	<b>3 093</b>	27 291	2
Tourist	<b>177 251</b>	6 863	165	32 115	186	<b>39 329</b>	137 920	2

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

Country of residence	April 2021	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
<b>Total</b>	<b>177 251</b>	<b>6 863</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>32 115</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>39 329</b>	<b>137 920</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Overseas</b>	<b>19 915</b>	<b>4 839</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>12 600</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>17 642</b>	<b>2 271</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>10 895</b>	<b>3 540</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6 149</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>9 733</b>	<b>1 162</b>	<b>-</b>
Belgium	471	175	2	240	3	420	51	-
France	1 088	268	-	679	1	948	140	-
Germany	1 772	872	1	744	2	1 619	153	-
Ireland	179	42	-	118	2	162	17	-
Italy	431	93	1	286	1	381	50	-
Poland	174	48	-	112	1	161	13	-
Portugal	360	31	1	132	3	167	193	-
Russian Federation	1 026	551	1	442	-	994	32	-
Spain	262	79	-	142	-	221	41	-
Sweden	219	75	-	103	1	179	40	-
Switzerland	435	131	-	287	-	418	17	-
The Netherlands	1 009	407	1	532	1	941	68	-
Turkey	186	27	1	133	-	161	25	-
UK	2 049	400	8	1 414	11	1 833	216	-
Other	1 234	341	1	785	1	1 128	106	-
<b>North America</b>	<b>4 061</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2 868</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>3 769</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>-</b>
Canada	298	69	-	196	-	265	33	-
USA	3 763	790	16	2 672	26	3 504	259	-
<b>Central and South America</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>-</b>
Argentina	40	7	-	31	-	38	2	-
Brazil	318	104	1	138	1	244	74	-
Mexico	78	11	-	64	1	76	2	-
Other	151	19	-	96	-	115	36	-
<b>Australasia</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>-</b>
Australia	255	31	5	198	1	235	20	-
New Zealand	58	6	-	41	1	48	10	-
Other	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-

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

Country of residence	April 2021	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
<b>Middle East</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>-</b>
Israel	327	52	3	251	-	306	21	-
Jordan	39	7	-	24	-	31	8	-
Lebanon	55	4	-	38	-	42	13	-
Other	109	36	-	68	3	107	2	-
<b>Asia</b>	<b>3 527</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>2 634</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2 898</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>2</b>
Bangladesh	167	7	-	132	-	139	28	-
China	649	8	2	492	1	503	146	-
India	1 201	29	22	943	4	998	203	-
Japan	114	13	19	74	2	108	5	1
Kazakhstan	54	-	-	54	-	54	-	-
Pakistan	616	40	34	448	-	522	94	-
Philippines	292	20	-	245	2	267	24	1
South Korea	115	5	2	67	-	74	41	-
Taiwan	60	4	-	11	-	15	45	-
Thailand	105	19	1	73	7	100	5	-
Other	154	18	3	95	2	118	36	-
<b>Africa</b>	<b>157 026</b>	<b>2 014</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>19 370</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>21 532</b>	<b>135 494</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>SADC</b>	<b>153 171</b>	<b>1 587</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>16 207</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>17 927</b>	<b>135 244</b>	<b>-</b>
Angola	613	32	-	463	2	497	116	-
Botswana	8 593	4	26	884	10	924	7 669	-
DRC	1 112	97	-	893	1	991	121	-
Eswatini	15 290	-	-	160	3	163	15 127	-
Lesotho	29 679	-	-	129	-	129	29 550	-
Madagascar	8	-	-	6	-	6	2	-
Malawi	3 997	12	-	860	2	874	3 123	-
Mauritius	51	-	-	26	-	26	25	-
Mozambique	44 521	4	3	1 034	4	1 045	43 476	-
Namibia	8 603	858	-	846	3	1 707	6 896	-
Seychelles	14	2	-	10	-	12	2	-
Tanzania	1 005	52	-	539	25	616	389	-
Zambia	5 530	9	-	1 208	26	1 243	4 287	-
Zimbabwe	34 155	517	6	9 149	22	9 694	24 461	-

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

Country of residence	April 2021	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
<b>'Other' African</b>	<b>3 855</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3 163</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3 605</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>East and Central Africa</b>	<b>1 584</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1 250</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1 464</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>-</b>
Burundi	23	1	-	19	-	20	3	-
Cameroon	142	4	-	126	2	132	10	-
Central African Republic	3	-	-	3	-	3	-	-
Chad	7	-	-	7	-	7	-	-
Comoros	3	2	-	1	-	3	-	-
Congo	58	16	-	41	-	57	1	-
Djibouti	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	6	-	-	2	-	2	4	-
Eritrea	3	-	-	2	-	2	1	-
Ethiopia	235	15	-	182	2	199	36	-
Gabon	113	23	-	89	-	112	1	-
Kenya	535	65	1	440	-	506	29	-
Rwanda	18	-	-	12	-	12	6	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Somalia	15	4	-	10	-	14	1	-
Uganda	421	77	2	314	-	393	28	-
<b>West Africa</b>	<b>1 896</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1 585</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1 781</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>-</b>
Benin	28	2	-	25	-	27	1	-
Burkina Faso	9	2	-	7	-	9	-	-
Cape Verde Island	3	-	-	2	-	2	1	-
Côte d'Ivoire	40	3	-	36	-	39	1	-
Gambia	11	-	-	10	-	10	1	-
Ghana	572	71	-	475	4	550	22	-
Guinea	37	2	-	20	-	22	15	-
Guinea-Bissau	3	-	-	3	-	3	-	-
Liberia	11	-	-	10	-	10	1	-
Mali	21	1	-	7	2	10	11	-
Niger	4	-	-	4	-	4	-	-
Nigeria	1 092	105	2	923	-	1 030	62	-
Senegal	52	1	-	51	-	52	-	-
Sierra Leone	9	-	-	9	-	9	-	-
Togo	4	1	-	3	-	4	-	-

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

Country of residence	April 2021	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
<b>North Africa</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>32</b>	-	<b>328</b>	-	<b>360</b>	<b>15</b>	-
Algeria	80	-	-	79	-	79	1	-
Egypt	130	12	-	110	-	122	8	-
Libya	46	7	-	39	-	46	-	-
Morocco	10	1	-	6	-	7	3	-
South Sudan	30	-	-	30	-	30	-	-
The Sudan	58	11	-	45	-	56	2	-
Tunisia	21	1	-	19	-	20	1	-
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>10</b>	-	<b>145</b>	-	<b>155</b>	<b>155</b>	-

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

Country of residence	April 2021	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
<b>Total</b>	<b>177 251</b>	<b>12 936</b>	<b>161 153</b>	<b>2 872</b>	<b>290</b>
<b>Overseas</b>	<b>19 915</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>18 990</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>10 895</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>10 414</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>28</b>
Belgium	471	18	444	8	1
France	1 088	49	1 017	21	1
Germany	1 772	54	1 687	31	-
Ireland	179	3	168	7	1
Italy	431	22	404	5	-
Poland	174	8	164	1	1
Portugal	360	4	349	3	4
Russian Federation	1 026	7	1 018	1	-
Spain	262	13	240	9	-
Sweden	219	4	215	-	-
Switzerland	435	6	426	3	-
The Netherlands	1 009	39	957	6	7
Turkey	186	7	173	5	1
UK	2 049	30	1 966	43	10
Other	1 234	39	1 186	7	2
<b>North America</b>	<b>4 061</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>3 956</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>6</b>
Canada	298	8	287	1	2
USA	3 763	61	3 669	29	4
<b>Central and South America</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3</b>
Argentina	40	2	33	5	-
Brazil	318	3	307	7	1
Mexico	78	3	74	-	1
Other	151	4	141	5	1
<b>Australasia</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>
Australia	255	4	248	3	-
New Zealand	58	-	58	-	-
Other	2	-	2	-	-



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

Country of residence	April 2021	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
<b>Middle East</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1</b>
Israel	327	6	319	2	-
Jordan	39	-	39	-	-
Lebanon	55	2	53	-	-
Other	109	2	76	30	1
<b>Asia</b>	<b>3 527</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>3 270</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>21</b>
Bangladesh	167	3	164	-	-
China	649	43	593	11	2
India	1 201	38	1 113	47	3
Japan	114	21	79	12	2
Kazakhstan	54	-	52	2	-
Pakistan	616	8	594	12	2
Philippines	292	-	286	3	3
South Korea	115	7	108	-	-
Taiwan	60	4	56	-	-
Thailand	105	4	93	1	7
Other	154	3	132	17	2
<b>Africa</b>	<b>157 026</b>	<b>12 403</b>	<b>141 857</b>	<b>2 535</b>	<b>231</b>
<b>SADC</b>	<b>153 171</b>	<b>12 289</b>	<b>138 498</b>	<b>2 185</b>	<b>199</b>
Angola	613	3	556	46	8
Botswana	8 593	970	7 271	293	59
DRC	1 112	42	980	80	10
Eswatini	15 290	889	14 186	194	21
Lesotho	29 679	489	28 484	684	22
Madagascar	8	-	5	3	-
Malawi	3 997	248	3 715	29	5
Mauritius	51	-	48	3	-
Mozambique	44 521	1 237	43 174	94	16
Namibia	8 603	3 555	4 792	239	17
Seychelles	14	-	14	-	-
Tanzania	1 005	54	916	31	4
Zambia	5 530	1 740	3 721	65	4
Zimbabwe	34 155	3 062	30 636	424	33

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

Country of residence	April 2021	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
<b>'Other' African</b>	<b>3 855</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>3 359</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>East and Central Africa</b>	<b>1 584</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>1 314</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>25</b>
Burundi	23	-	18	1	4
Cameroon	142	1	105	27	9
Central African Republic	3	-	3	-	-
Chad	7	-	7	-	-
Comoros	3	-	3	-	-
Congo	58	1	44	12	1
Djibouti	1	-	1	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	6	-	6	-	-
Eritrea	3	-	3	-	-
Ethiopia	235	4	225	3	3
Gabon	113	-	87	24	2
Kenya	535	30	438	63	4
Rwanda	18	-	16	2	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	1	-	1	-	-
Somalia	15	1	14	-	-
Uganda	421	32	343	44	2
<b>West Africa</b>	<b>1 896</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1 708</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>6</b>
Benin	28	-	25	3	-
Burkina Faso	9	-	7	2	-
Cape Verde Island	3	-	3	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	40	2	35	3	-
Gambia	11	-	8	3	-
Ghana	572	11	541	19	1
Guinea	37	-	27	10	-
Guinea-Bissau	3	-	3	-	-
Liberia	11	1	9	1	-
Mali	21	-	19	-	2
Niger	4	-	4	-	-
Nigeria	1 092	22	965	102	3
Senegal	52	-	52	-	-
Sierra Leone	9	1	6	2	-
Togo	4	-	4	-	-

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

Country of residence	April 2021	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
<b>North Africa</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1</b>
Algeria	80	-	80	-	-
Egypt	130	2	115	12	1
Libya	46	-	39	7	-
Morocco	10	-	8	2	-
South Sudan	30	6	24	-	-
The Sudan	58	-	50	8	-
Tunisia	21	-	21	-	-
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

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

Sex	Age group	April 2021	Region			
			Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
<b>All</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>177 251</b>	<b>19 915</b>	<b>153 171</b>	<b>3 855</b>	<b>310</b>
	0-14	6 499	1 483	4 789	223	4
	15-24	11 857	1 843	9 576	428	10
	25-34	40 490	4 579	34 697	1 150	64
	35-44	61 748	4 251	56 182	1 223	92
	45-54	36 867	3 595	32 631	551	90
	55-64	14 797	2 673	11 884	193	47
	65+	4 993	1 491	3 412	87	3
<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>120 748</b>	<b>12 231</b>	<b>105 815</b>	<b>2 494</b>	<b>208</b>
	0-14	3 197	777	2 311	108	1
	15-24	6 384	1 031	5 077	269	7
	25-34	26 118	2 668	22 724	687	39
	35-44	45 306	2 814	41 540	888	64
	45-54	27 042	2 387	24 210	382	63
	55-64	9 880	1 653	8 082	113	32
	65+	2 821	901	1 871	47	2
<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>56 503</b>	<b>7 684</b>	<b>47 356</b>	<b>1 361</b>	<b>102</b>
	0-14	3 302	706	2 478	115	3
	15-24	5 473	812	4 499	159	3
	25-34	14 372	1 911	11 973	463	25
	35-44	16 442	1 437	14 642	335	28
	45-54	9 825	1 208	8 421	169	27
	55-64	4 917	1 020	3 802	80	15
	65+	2 172	590	1 541	40	1

## **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 Department of Home Affairs (DHA). Stats SA then processes, analyses and publishes this information.

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

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

### **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).

### **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 O.R. Tambo International Airport, which has the highest volume of travellers, are compared with passenger statistics from the Airports Company of South Africa (ACSA). As expected, in any specific month, an increase in the volume of passengers reported by ACSA is also reflected in an increase in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. A similar pattern has also been observed when the volume of travellers decreased. In April 2021, the DHA data was 3,8% 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.

### 4.5.2 Purpose of visit

The holiday category includes tourists who came for vacation, visiting friends and relatives, shopping and other personal reasons such as attending weddings. While it's possible to separate 'visiting friends and relatives' from the broad category of Holiday, shopping and other reasons for visiting South Africa are all combined with vacation in the DHA movement control system. Discussions are in progress with the Department of Home Affairs to capture vacation and shopping as separate categories for a clearer breakdown of tourists by purpose of visit.

## 4.6 Definition of terms

### 4.6.1 Definitions used by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)

**Traveller** is someone who moves between different geographical locations for any purpose and any duration.

**Visitor** refers to any person travelling to a place other than that of his/her usual environment for less than 12 months and whose main purpose of the trip is other than the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited.

**Same-Day visitor** is a visitor who visits a place for less than one night.

**Tourist** (overnight visitor) is a visitor who stays at least one night in collective or private accommodation in the place visited.

**Tourism** comprises the activities of persons travelling to, and staying in places outside their usual environment, for not more than one consecutive year, for leisure, business and other purposes. The usual environment of a person consists of a certain area around his/her place of residence, plus all the other places he/she frequently visits.

### 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 eleven official languages, since the releases are used extensively, not only locally but also by international economic and social-scientific communities. Stats SA releases are published in English.

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