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Preface

The release is compiled and published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) according to a framework of International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics 2008 (IRTS 2008) developed by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). The IRTS is one element of a System of Tourism Statistics (STS) that provides information for understanding and monitoring the impact of tourism over time and the other element of the STS for South Africa include use of border statistics from National Department of Home Affairs.

This monthly statistical release provides information on South African residents and foreign travellers who entered or left South Africa in August 2022. Specific focus is on foreign tourists who entered the country in the month of August. 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.



Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

1. Key findings

1.1 Travellers

1.1.1 Number of travellers

The routine data collected by the Department of Home Affairs' (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into and out of South Africa shows that a total of 2 206 838 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry/exit in August 2022. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 653 190 South African residents and 1 553 648 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 316 788 arrivals, 335 982 departures and 420 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 820 708, 698 587 and 34 353 respectively.

A comparison between the movements in August 2021 and August 2022 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and travellers in transit increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 153,8% (from 124 804 in August 2021 to 316 788 in August 2022). Departures increased by 147,5% (from 135 733 in August 2021 to 335 982 in August 2022) and transits increased by 236,0% (from 125 in August 2021 to 420 in August 2022). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 205,2% (from 268 946 in August 2021 to 820 708 in August 2022), departures increased by 205,3% (from 228 828 in August 2021 to 698 587 in August 2022), and transits increased by 182,0% (from 12 181 in August 2021 to 34 353 in August 2022).

A comparison between the movements in July 2022 and August 2022 indicates that the volume of arrivals decreased for South African residents but increased for foreign travellers, while the volume of departures and travellers in transit increased for both group of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 17,3% (from 382 964 in July 2022 to 316 788 in August 2022), departures increased by 1,1% (from 332 409 in July 2022 to 335 982 in August 2022) and transits increased by 23,2% (from 341 in July 2022 to 420 in August 2022). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 11,3% (from 737 350 in July 2022 to 820 708 in August 2022), departures increased by 17,3% (from 595 703 in July 2022 to 698 587 in August 2022) and transits increased by 27,6% (from 26 921 in July 2022 to 34 353 in August 2022).

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 August 2022, 65 506 (8,0%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 755 202 (92,0%) were classified as visitors. Visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in August 2022 but did not depart in August 2022 [217 736 (28,8%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in August 2022 and left in August 2022 [251 254 (33,3%)]; and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in August 2022 [286 212 (37,9%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In August 2022, there were 199 370 (26,4%) same-day visitors and 555 832 (73,6%) tourists. Between August 2021 and August 2022, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 433,2% (from 37 392 in August 2021 to 199 370 in August 2022) and that of tourists increased by 199,4% (from 185 637 in August 2021 to 555 832 in August 2022). Between July 2022 and August 2022, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 22,3% (from 162 955 in July 2022 to 199 370 in August 2022) and that of tourists increased by 9,5% (from 507 824 in July 2022 to 555 832 in August 2022).

1.1.2 Mode of travel of travellers

Information presented in Table 2 on page 10, shows the number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction and mode of travel. In August 2022, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 1 475 332 (66,9%) of the 2 206 838 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 726 616 (32,9%). Compared to air and land transport, a smaller number of travellers, 4 890 (0,2%) used sea transport into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 135 526 (42,8%) came by air, 181 186 (57,2%) came by road and 76 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. For departures, 155 049 (46,1%) used air, 180 682 (53,8%) used road and 251 (0,1%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 420 (100,0%) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 197 037 (24,0%) arrived by air, 621 305 (75,7%) came by road and 2 366 (0,3%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 204 231 (29,2%) foreign travellers left by air, 492 159 (70,5%) left by road and 2 197 (0,3%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 34 353 (100,0%) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that of the 199 370 same-day visitors, a majority, 175 679 (88,1%) arrived in the country by road, 23 688 (11,9%) flew into the country and three (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. Information on tourists shows that 392 836 (70,7%) used road transport, 162 964 (29,3%) came by air transport and 32 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea transport.

1.2 Tourists

1.2.1 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 Table 3 on pages 11 to 14. In August 2022, 118 016 (88,9%) of the 132 757 overseas tourists arrived in the country by air transport, whilst 14 710 (11,1%) came in by road transport and 31 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 376 950 (91,2%), whilst 36 571 (8,8%) came by air and one (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 7 820 (89,6%); while 905 (10,4%) used road transport and none used sea transport.

1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In August 2022, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 77 988 (58,7%); North America, 28 336 (21,3%); Asia, 11 117 (8,4%); The Middle East, 6 958 (5,2%) Australasia, 5 883 (4,4%); and Central and South America, 2 475 (1,9%).

Figure 1 on page 7 indicates that the ten leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in August 2022 were: United States of America (USA), 25 162 (19,0%); United Kingdom (UK), 23 361 (17,6%); Germany, 10 541 (7,9%); The Netherlands, 8 642 (6,5%); France, 8 479 (6,4%); Italy, 7 272 (5,5%); India, 5 114 (3,9%); Australia, 4 716 (3,6%); Spain, 4 518 (3,4%) and Canada, 3 174 (2,4%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 76,1% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the ten leading countries between August 2021 and August 2022 shows that the number of tourists increased for all ten leading countries. Australia had the highest increase of 2 114,1% (from 213 tourists in August 2021 to 4 716 tourists in August 2022).

Virtually, most tourists from Africa, 413 522 (97,9%), came from SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: East and Central Africa, 4 163 (1,0%); West Africa, 3 579 (0,8%) and North Africa 983 (0,2%). Ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in August 2022 were: Zimbabwe, 140 635 (34,0%); Mozambique, 87 591 (21,2%); Lesotho, 74 167 (17,9%); Eswatini, 46 103 (11,1%); Botswana, 23 822 (5,8%); Namibia, 11 011 (2,7%); Zambia, 10 848 (2,6%); Malawi, 10 028 (2,4%); Angola, 3 442 (0,8%) and Tanzania, 2 466 (0,6%) (see Figure 2 on page 7). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,2% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison of movements in the ten leading countries between August 2021 and August 2022 shows that the number of tourists increased for all ten leading countries. Zimbabwe showed the highest increase of 353,9% (from 30 981 tourists in August 2021 to 140 635 in August 2022).

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in August 2022 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8, were: Kenya, 1 708 (19,6%); Ghana, 1 528 (17,5%); Nigeria, 1 235 (14,2%); Uganda 760 (8,7%); Egypt, 481 (5,5%); Ethiopia, 430 (4,9%); Gabon, 415 (4,8%); Cameroon, 268 (3,1%); Côte d'Ivoire, 181 (2,1%) and Congo, 176 (2,0%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 82,3% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in August 2021 and August 2022 shows that the number of tourists increased for all ten leading countries. Ghana showed the highest increase of 203,8% (from 503 tourists in August 2021 to 1 528 in August 2022).

1.2.3 Purpose of visit

Table 4 on pages 15 to 18, shows the number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit. It is observed that in August 2022, the majority of tourists, 532 223 (95,8%), were in South Africa for holiday¹ compared to 19 541 (3,5%); 3 707 (0,7%) and 361 (0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and medical treatment respectively.

Within the overseas regions, Australasia, 99,0% (5 827) had the highest proportion of tourists who came for holiday followed by North America, 98,7% (27 980), The Middle East, 98,2% (6 836); Europe, 98,0% (76 395); Central and South America, 97,1% (2 402) and Asia, 92,7% (10 305).

Asia, 5,9% (651) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for business, followed by Central and South America, 2,3% (56); Europe, 1,4% (1 062); The Middle East, 1,1% (74); North America, 0,9% (241) and Australasia, 0,8% (49).

Asia, 1,4% (155) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to study, followed by The Middle East, 0,7% (48); Central and South America, 0,7% (17); Europe, 0,6% (490); North America, 0,4% (108) and Australasia, 0,1% (6).

Asia, 0,1% (6) and Europe, 0,1% (41) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for medical treatment. North America (7) and Australasia (1) had less than 0,1% of medical treatment tourists, whereas The Middle East and Central and South America had none.

The majority of African tourists, 401 673 (95,1%) 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 95,3% (394 028) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 87,6% (7 645) from 'other' African countries. Information on the regions of 'other' African countries shows that 91,2% (3 265) of tourists from West Africa were on holiday, followed by tourists from East and Central Africa, 85,9% (3 576) and those from North Africa 81,8% (804).
- Business persons constituted 4,1% (16 832) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 6,4% (556) from 'other' African countries. North Africa, 8,5% (84) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes, followed by East and Central Africa, 8,2% (342) and West Africa, 3,6% (130).
- Students constituted 0,6% (2 399) of tourists from SADC countries compared with 5,5% (482) from 'other' African countries. North Africa, 9,4% (92) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes, followed by East and Central Africa, 5,4% (226) and West Africa, 4,6% (164).
- Tourists who came for medical treatment constituted 0,1% (263) of tourists from SADC countries, while those from 'other' African countries constituted 0,5% (42). West Africa, 0,6% (20) had the highest proportion of tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by East and Central Africa, 0,5% (19) and North Africa, 0,3% (3).

¹ The holiday category includes tourists who came for vacation, visiting friends and relatives, shopping and other personal reasons. See section 5.5.2 on page 25 for a more detailed discussion.

1.2.4 Sex and age distribution

Table 5 on page 19, shows the number of tourists by country of residence, sex and age group. There were 322 512 (58,0%) male and 233 320 (42,0%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 71 175 (53,6%) male and 61 582 (46,4%) female. There were 245 437 (59,4%) male and 168 085 (40,6%) female tourists from SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 5 402 (61,9%) male and 3 323 (38,1%) female.

The ages of tourists were categorised into seven broad groups (see Table 5 for a detailed classification). The results presented in Table 5 further shows that the majority of tourists were aged between 35 and 44 years [165 954 (29,9%)]. Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results show that the highest proportion of tourists from overseas countries [24 333 (18,3%)] were aged between 45 and 54 years, whereas SADC countries [141 466 (34,2%)] and those from 'other' African countries [2 820 (32,3%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years.

The second highest proportion of tourists from overseas countries [22 932 (17,3%)], SADC countries [105 479 (25,5%)] and those from 'other' African countries [2 137 (24,5%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years. The median ages of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African countries were 40, 38 and 37 years respectively. The proportion of tourists younger than 15 years was higher among tourists from overseas countries, 11,1% (14 688) followed by those from 'other' African countries, 7,1% (618) and those from SADC countries, 5,6% (23 199).

A comparison of the three regions shows higher proportions of the elderly (those aged 65 years and older) among both male and female tourists from overseas. This comprised of 10,1% (7 189) males and 10,6% (6 501) females from overseas countries. However, tourists aged 65 years and older from the other two regions (SADC and 'other' African) comprised of less than 3,5% of both male and female tourists. Elderly tourists from SADC countries were made up of 1,9% (4 780) male and 3,4% (5 641) female; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists were made up of 2,2% (120) and 2,3% (78) of male and female respectively.

2. Figures

Figure 1 – Number of tourists from the ten leading overseas countries in August 2021 and August 2022

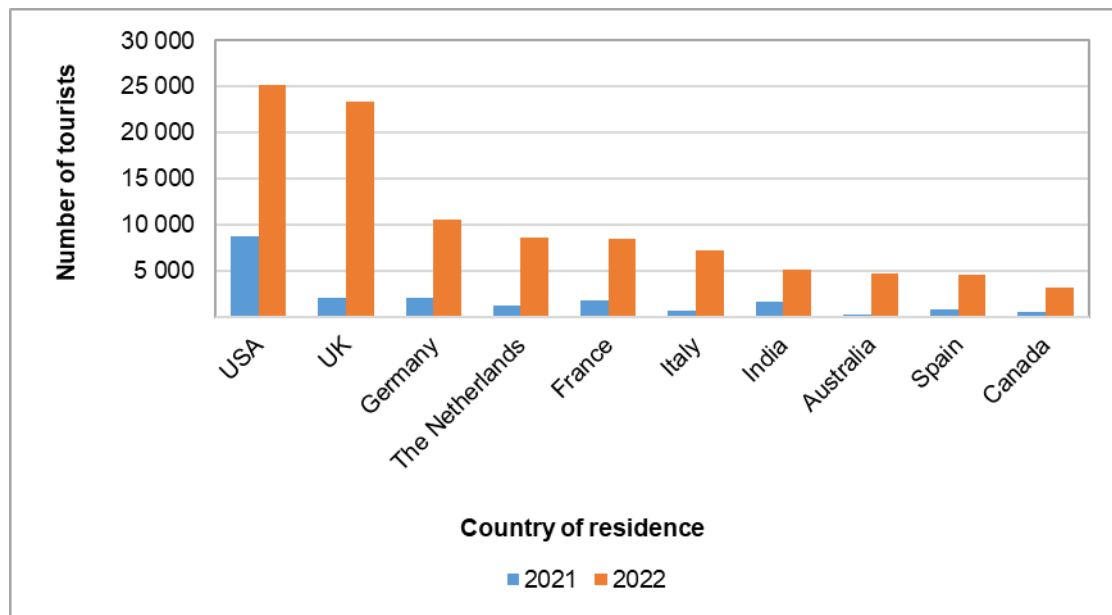


Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in August 2021 and August 2022

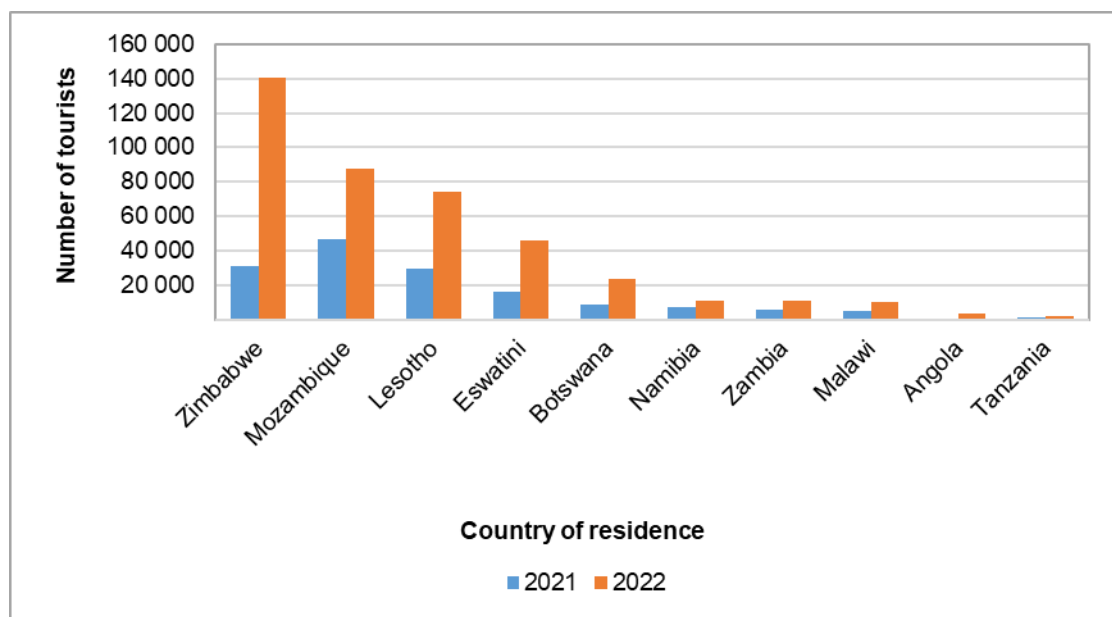
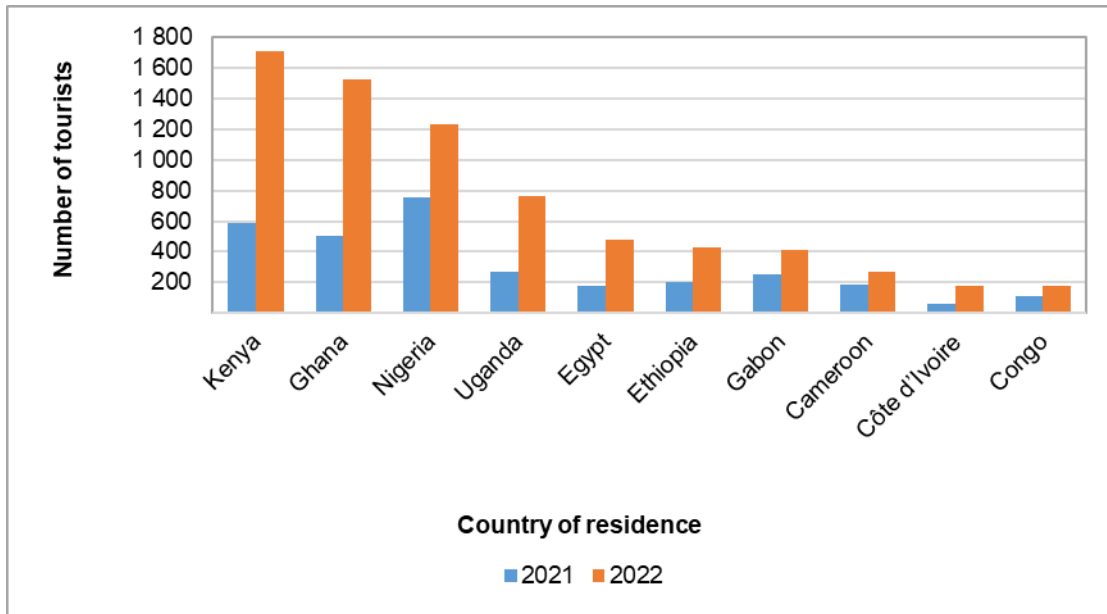


Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the ten leading 'other' African countries in August 2021 and August 2022



3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	August 2021	July 2022	August 2022	% Change Jul 2022 – Aug 2022	% Change Aug 2021 – Aug 2022
Total	770 617	2 075 688	2 206 838	6,3%	186,4%
South African residents	260 662	715 714	653 190	-8,7%	150,6%
Arrivals	124 804	382 964	316 788	-17,3%	153,8%
Departures	135 733	332 409	335 982	1,1%	147,5%
Transits	125	341	420	23,2%	236,0%
Foreign travellers	509 955	1 359 974	1 553 648	14,2%	204,7%
Arrivals	268 946	737 350	820 708	11,3%	205,2%
Departures	228 828	595 703	698 587	17,3%	205,3%
Transits	12 181	26 921	34 353	27,6%	182,0%
Foreign arrivals	268 946	737 350	820 708	11,3%	205,2%
Non-visitors	45 917	66 571	65 506	-1,6%	42,7%
Visitors	223 029	670 779	755 202	12,6%	238,6%
Visitors	223 029	670 779	755 202	12,6%	238,6%
Arrivals only	78 022	217 710	217 736	0,0%	179,1%
Single trips	64 319	211 964	251 254	18,5%	290,6%
Multiple trips	80 688	241 105	286 212	18,7%	254,7%
Visitors	223 029	670 779	755 202	12,6%	238,6%
Same-day	37 392	162 955	199 370	22,3%	433,2%
Overnight (Tourists)	185 637	507 824	555 832	9,5%	199,4%

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		
Total	2 206 838	148 611	17 132	554 966	5 907	726 616	1 475 332	4 890
South African residents	653 190	56 240	10 941	220 917	2 897	290 995	361 868	327
Arrivals	316 788	26 219	4 719	103 235	1 353	135 526	181 186	76
Departures	335 982	30 017	6 222	117 266	1 544	155 049	180 682	251
Transit	420	4	-	416	-	420	-	-
Foreign travellers	1 553 648	92 371	6 191	334 049	3 010	435 621	1 113 464	4 563
Arrivals	820 708	45 525	2 896	147 521	1 095	197 037	621 305	2 366
Departures	698 587	46 649	3 295	152 372	1 915	204 231	492 159	2 197
Transit	34 353	197	-	34 156	-	34 353	-	-
Visitors	755 202	43 344	2 230	140 206	872	186 652	568 515	35
Same-day	199 370	1 427	40	22 145	76	23 688	175 679	3
Tourist	555 832	41 917	2 190	118 061	796	162 964	392 836	32

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, August 2022

Country of residence	August		August 2022						
	2021	2022	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	185 637	555 832	41 917	2 190	118 061	796	162 964	392 836	32
Overseas	28 157	132 757	35 840	1 758	79 739	679	118 016	14 710	31
Europe	12 586	77 988	21 225	948	44 853	210	67 236	10 729	23
Austria	231	979	263	17	563	1	844	135	-
Belgium	501	2 948	627	12	1 707	9	2 355	593	-
Denmark	191	699	119	10	517	2	648	51	-
France	1 729	8 479	1 929	31	5 135	9	7 104	1 373	2
Germany	2 008	10 541	3 645	166	5 574	17	9 402	1 139	-
Ireland	212	1 579	526	38	892	5	1 461	118	-
Italy	594	7 272	2 743	43	3 576	26	6 388	883	1
Portugal	379	1 467	178	23	609	1	811	656	-
Russian Federation	524	1 229	495	21	620	14	1 150	78	1
Spain	806	4 518	1 231	21	2 593	34	3 879	639	-
Switzerland	550	1 527	414	16	882	4	1 316	210	1
The Netherlands	1 231	8 642	1 922	59	4 010	10	6 001	2 641	-
Turkey	271	775	245	30	377		652	123	-
UK	2 025	23 361	5 825	406	15 379	55	21 665	1 684	12
Other	1 334	3 972	1 063	55	2 419	23	3 560	406	6
North America	9 387	28 336	7 844	116	18 622	409	26 991	1 344	1
Canada	579	3 174	875	13	1 993	13	2 894	280	-
USA	8 808	25 162	6 969	103	16 629	396	24 097	1 064	1
Central and South America	851	2 475	589	28	1 592	10	2 219	256	-
Argentina	83	185	45	-	131	-	176	9	-
Brazil	423	1 396	359	23	842	8	1 232	164	-
Mexico	130	271	53	1	210	-	264	7	-
Other	215	623	132	4	409	2	547	76	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, August 2022 (continued)

Country of residence	August		August 2022						
	2021	2022	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Australasia	261	5 883	724	94	4 792	18	5 628	254	1
Australia	213	4 716	593	62	3 858	17	4 530	186	-
New Zealand	46	1 161	129	32	930	1	1 092	68	1
Other	2	6	2	-	4	-	6	-	-
Middle East	1 371	6 958	3 558	24	3 188	15	6 785	173	-
Israel	199	2 348	417	8	1 809	13	2 247	101	-
Saudi Arabia	765	2 643	1 969	6	651	-	2 626	17	-
United Arab Emirates	15	875	698	-	176	1	875	-	-
Other	392	1 092	474	10	552	1	1 037	55	-
Asia	3 701	11 117	1 900	548	6 692	17	9 157	1 954	6
Bangladesh	418	711	94	126	387	-	607	104	-
China	411	1 374	136	4	954	2	1 096	277	1
India	1 613	5 114	894	216	3 236	4	4 350	764	-
Japan	114	522	79	51	355	1	486	34	2
Malaysia	31	236	69	12	130	4	215	21	-
Pakistan	517	1 253	102	105	663	-	870	383	-
Philippines	226	291	81	17	145	1	244	47	-
Singapore	16	246	90	1	152	-	243	3	-
South Korea	120	484	98	2	251	5	356	126	2
Thailand	81	259	79	5	161	-	245	14	-
Other	154	627	178	9	258	-	445	181	1
Africa	157 137	422 247	6 047	428	37 799	117	44 391	377 855	1
SADC	153 519	413 522	5 186	389	30 884	112	36 571	376 950	1
Angola	841	3 442	1 331	-	1 699	4	3 034	408	-
Botswana	8 844	23 822	254	-	2 002	15	2 271	21 551	-
DRC	941	2 004	90	-	1 674	-	1 764	240	-
Eswatini	16 365	46 103	2	2	490	4	498	45 605	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, August 2022 (continued)

Country of residence	August		August 2022						
	2021	2022	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Lesotho	29 388	74 167	5	6	469	7	487	73 680	-
Madagascar	28	160	11	-	144	-	155	5	-
Malawi	4 986	10 028	25	1	1 529	4	1 559	8 469	-
Mauritius	37	1 078	46	2	979	-	1 027	51	-
Mozambique	46 568	87 591	5	4	2 529	7	2 545	85 046	-
Namibia	7 561	11 011	1 296	1	1 916	14	3 227	7 783	1
Seychelles	16	167	17	4	140	-	161	6	-
Tanzania	1 138	2 466	176	-	1 223	4	1 403	1 063	-
Zambia	5 825	10 848	52	27	3 124	6	3 209	7 639	-
Zimbabwe	30 981	140 635	1 876	342	12 966	47	15 231	125 404	-
'Other' African	3 618	8 725	861	39	6 915	5	7 820	905	-
East and Central Africa	1 691	4 163	513	9	3 149	2	3 673	490	-
Burundi	13	75	11	-	55	-	66	9	-
Cameroon	182	268	25	-	218	-	243	25	-
Central African Republic	1	4	-	-	4	-	4	-	-
Chad	11	30	1	-	29	-	30	-	-
Comoros	6	73	8	-	65	-	73	-	-
Congo	108	176	23	-	147	-	170	6	-
Djibouti	3	4	-	-	4	-	4	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	5	19	11	-	8	-	19	-	-
Eritrea	18	21	1	-	18	-	19	2	-
Ethiopia	200	430	44	6	313	-	363	67	-
Gabon	255	415	59	-	352	2	413	2	-
Kenya	588	1 708	263	-	1 247	-	1 510	198	-
Rwanda	15	42	1	-	29	-	30	12	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	-	2	1	-	1	-	2	-	-
Somalia	13	136	7	1	31	-	39	97	-
Uganda	273	760	58	2	628	-	688	72	-

Table 3 – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, August 2022 (concluded)

Country of residence	August		August 2022						
	2021	2022	Air					Road	Sea
			Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
West Africa	1 548	3 579	238	7	2 957	3	3 205	374	-
Benin	41	114	11	-	96	-	107	7	-
Burkina Faso	14	45	3	-	42	-	45	-	-
Cape Verde Island	3	29	4	-	14	1	19	10	-
Côte d'Ivoire	60	181	14	-	160	1	175	6	-
Gambia	8	28	-	-	24	-	24	4	-
Ghana	503	1 528	106	3	1 356	-	1 465	63	-
Guinea	33	85	3	-	31	-	34	51	-
Guinea-Bissau	3	4	-	-	3	-	3	1	-
Liberia	12	28	4	-	22	-	26	2	-
Mali	32	73	12	-	29	-	41	32	-
Mauritania	1	10	1	-	9	-	10	-	-
Niger	9	17	-	-	17	-	17	-	-
Nigeria	758	1 235	65	3	976	1	1 045	190	-
Saint Helena	-	9	-	-	9	-	9	-	-
Senegal	49	130	10	1	115	-	126	4	-
Sierra Leone	8	47	3	-	40	-	43	4	-
Togo	14	16	2	-	14	-	16	-	-
North Africa	379	983	110	23	809	-	942	41	-
Algeria	26	73	7	1	54	-	62	11	-
Egypt	176	481	44	14	414	-	472	9	-
Libya	24	49	8	-	25	-	33	16	-
Morocco	24	116	21	1	92	-	114	2	-
South Sudan	25	51	3	-	48	-	51	-	-
The Sudan	72	152	20	6	125	-	151	1	-
Tunisia	31	60	7	1	50	-	58	2	-
Western Sahara	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Unspecified	343	828	30	4	523	-	557	271	-

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

Country of residence	August			Purpose of visit (August 2022)			
	2021	2022	% change 2021–2022	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Total	185 637	555 832	199,4%	19 541	532 223	3 707	361
Overseas	28 157	132 757	371,5%	2 133	129 745	824	55
Europe	12 586	77 988	519,6%	1 062	76 395	490	41
Austria	231	979	323,8%	14	962	3	-
Belgium	501	2 948	488,4%	39	2 895	14	-
Denmark	191	699	266,0%	25	671	3	-
France	1 729	8 479	390,4%	71	8 226	182	-
Germany	2 008	10 541	425,0%	190	10 272	76	3
Ireland	212	1 579	644,8%	24	1 547	8	-
Italy	594	7 272	1124,2%	47	7 210	15	-
Portugal	379	1 467	287,1%	14	1 447	3	3
Russian Federation	524	1 229	134,5%	15	1 214	-	-
Spain	806	4 518	460,5%	39	4 457	20	2
Switzerland	550	1 527	177,6%	25	1 494	8	-
The Netherlands	1 231	8 642	602,0%	80	8 488	65	9
Turkey	271	775	186,0%	45	718	12	-
UK	2 025	23 361	1053,6%	335	22 957	51	18
Other	1 334	3 972	197,8%	99	3 837	30	6
North America	9 387	28 336	201,9%	241	27 980	108	7
Canada	579	3 174	448,2%	28	3 135	10	1
USA	8 808	25 162	185,7%	213	24 845	98	6
Central and South America	851	2 475	190,8%	56	2 402	17	-
Argentina	83	185	122,9%	4	177	4	-
Brazil	423	1 396	230,0%	24	1 366	6	-
Mexico	130	271	108,5%	11	257	3	-
Other	215	623	189,8%	17	602	4	-

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

Country of residence	August			Purpose of visit (August 2022)			
	2021	2022	% change 2021–2022	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Australasia	261	5 883	2154,0%	49	5 827	6	1
Australia	213	4 716	2114,1%	39	4 670	6	1
New Zealand	46	1 161	2423,9%	9	1 152	-	-
Other	2	6	200,0%	1	5	-	-
Middle East	1 371	6 958	407,5%	74	6 836	48	-
Israel	199	2 348	1079,9%	31	2 314	3	-
Saudi Arabia	765	2 643	245,5%	7	2 631	5	-
United Arab Emirates	15	875	5733,3%	2	873	-	-
Other	392	1 092	178,6%	34	1 018	40	-
Asia	3 701	11 117	200,4%	651	10 305	155	6
Bangladesh	418	711	70,1%	21	680	10	-
China	411	1 374	234,3%	169	1 193	10	2
India	1 613	5 114	217,0%	342	4 704	68	-
Japan	114	522	357,9%	35	469	17	1
Malaysia	31	236	661,3%	8	225	3	-
Pakistan	517	1 253	142,4%	20	1 216	17	-
Philippines	226	291	28,8%	7	278	5	1
Singapore	16	246	1437,5%	11	234	1	-
South Korea	120	484	303,3%	8	462	13	1
Thailand	81	259	219,8%	6	252	1	-
Other	154	627	307,1%	24	592	10	1
Africa	157 137	422 247	168,7%	17 388	401 673	2 881	305
SADC	153 519	413 522	169,4%	16 832	394 028	2 399	263
Angola	841	3 442	309,3%	28	3 326	73	15
Botswana	8 844	23 822	169,4%	1 034	22 478	225	85
DRC	941	2 004	113,0%	49	1 827	109	19
Eswatini	16 365	46 103	181,7%	1 928	43 956	195	24

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

Country of residence	August			Purpose of visit (August 2022)			
	2021	2022	% change 2021–2022	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Lesotho	29 388	74 167	152,4%	730	72 523	913	1
Madagascar	28	160	471,4%	3	155	2	-
Malawi	4 986	10 028	101,1%	301	9 685	34	8
Mauritius	37	1 078	2813,5%	15	1 049	11	3
Mozambique	46 568	87 591	88,1%	2 048	85 450	79	14
Namibia	7 561	11 011	45,6%	3 299	7 494	202	16
Seychelles	16	167	943,8%	1	163	3	-
Tanzania	1 138	2 466	116,7%	98	2 295	66	7
Zambia	5 825	10 848	86,2%	3 826	6 922	82	18
Zimbabwe	30 981	140 635	353,9%	3 472	136 705	405	53
'Other' African	3 618	8 725	141,2%	556	7 645	482	42
East and Central Africa	1 691	4 163	146,2%	342	3 576	226	19
Burundi	13	75	476,9%	7	61	3	4
Cameroon	182	268	47,3%	13	238	15	2
Central African Republic	1	4	300,0%	2	2	-	-
Chad	11	30	172,7%	3	24	3	-
Comoros	6	73	1116,7%	7	66	-	-
Congo	108	176	63,0%	1	152	23	-
Djibouti	3	4	33,3%	-	4	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	5	19	280,0%	5	14	-	-
Eritrea	18	21	16,7%	1	19	1	-
Ethiopia	200	430	115,0%	31	378	17	4
Gabon	255	415	62,7%	-	392	20	3
Kenya	588	1 708	190,5%	151	1 470	84	3
Rwanda	15	42	180,0%	5	36	1	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	-	2	-	-	2	-	-
Somalia	13	136	946,2%	67	65	4	-
Uganda	273	760	178,4%	49	653	55	3

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

Country of residence	August			Purpose of visit (August 2022)			
	2021	2022	% change 2021–2022	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
West Africa	1 548	3 579	131,2%	130	3 265	164	20
Benin	41	114	178,0%	1	109	4	-
Burkina Faso	14	45	221,4%	2	41	2	-
Cape Verde Island	3	29	866,7%	-	29	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	60	181	201,7%	6	172	3	-
Gambia	8	28	250,0%	1	27	-	-
Ghana	503	1 528	203,8%	62	1 418	40	8
Guinea	33	85	157,6%	2	79	4	-
Guinea-Bissau	3	4	33,3%	-	4	-	-
Liberia	12	28	133,3%	3	21	3	1
Mali	32	73	128,1%	4	68	1	-
Mauritania	1	10	900,0%	-	9	1	-
Niger	9	17	88,9%	2	13	-	2
Nigeria	758	1 235	62,9%	36	1 090	100	9
Saint Helena	-	9	-	-	9	-	-
Senegal	49	130	165,3%	10	118	2	-
Sierra Leone	8	47	487,5%	-	44	3	-
Togo	14	16	14,3%	1	14	1	-
North Africa	379	983	159,4%	84	804	92	3
Algeria	26	73	180,8%	3	68	2	-
Egypt	176	481	173,3%	32	407	42	-
Libya	24	49	104,2%	1	33	15	-
Morocco	24	116	383,3%	19	92	5	-
South Sudan	25	51	104,0%	3	41	4	3
The Sudan	72	152	111,1%	25	111	16	-
Tunisia	31	60	93,5%	1	51	8	-
Western Sahara	1	1	0,0%	-	1	-	-
Unspecified	343	828	141,4%	20	805	2	1

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

Sex	Age group	August		Region (August 2022)			
		2021	2022	Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	185 637	555 832	132 757	413 522	8 725	828
	0-14	7 467	38 521	14 688	23 199	618	16
	15-24	13 887	48 737	16 602	31 299	821	15
	25-34	42 516	130 665	22 932	105 479	2 137	117
	35-44	63 176	165 954	21 425	141 466	2 820	243
	45-54	37 472	100 886	24 333	74 737	1 545	271
	55-64	15 139	46 754	19 087	26 920	586	161
	65+	5 980	24 314	13 690	10 421	198	5
	Unspecified	-	1	-	1	-	-
Male	Total	127 250	322 512	71 175	245 437	5 402	498
	0-14	3 761	19 387	7 627	11 457	295	8
	15-24	7 309	24 888	8 149	16 286	443	10
	25-34	28 024	73 695	11 694	60 756	1 187	58
	35-44	46 814	103 775	12 228	89 492	1 907	148
	45-54	27 760	62 292	13 517	47 563	1 052	160
	55-64	10 178	26 382	10 771	15 102	398	111
	65+	3 404	12 092	7 189	4 780	120	3
	Unspecified	-	1	-	1	-	-
Female	Total	58 387	233 320	61 582	168 085	3 323	330
	0-14	3 706	19 134	7 061	11 742	323	8
	15-24	6 578	23 849	8 453	15 013	378	5
	25-34	14 492	56 970	11 238	44 723	950	59
	35-44	16 362	62 179	9 197	51 974	913	95
	45-54	9 712	38 594	10 816	27 174	493	111
	55-64	4 961	20 372	8 316	11 818	188	50
	65+	2 576	12 222	6 501	5 641	78	2
	Unspecified	-	-	-	-	-	-

4. Annexures

4.1 Annexure A – Number of tourists' difference between Jan – Aug 2021 and Jan – Aug 2022 by country of residence

Country of residence	Jan – Aug 2021	Jan – Aug 2022	Difference between Jan – Aug 2021 and Jan – Aug 2022	% change between Jan – Aug 2021 and Jan – Aug 2022
Country of residence	1 263 163	3 349 402	2 086 239	165,2%
Overseas	158 239	822 635	664 396	419,9%
Europe	75 329	500 662	425 333	564,6%
Austria	1 231	7 326	6 095	495,1%
Belgium	3 024	19 511	16 487	545,2%
Denmark	1 080	8 271	7 191	665,8%
France	8 143	44 588	36 445	447,6%
Germany	12 286	86 868	74 582	607,0%
Ireland	1 251	11 849	10 598	847,2%
Italy	3 161	19 431	16 270	514,7%
Portugal	2 528	9 853	7 325	289,8%
Russian Federation	5 636	7 532	1 896	33,6%
Spain	3 083	14 658	11 575	375,4%
Sweden	1 469	7 948	6 479	441,0%
Switzerland	3 211	17 373	14 162	441,0%
The Netherlands	6 597	51 532	44 935	681,1%
UK	13 498	164 001	150 503	1115,0%
Other	9 131	29 921	20 790	227,7%
North America	45 077	177 202	132 125	293,1%
Canada	2 838	18 703	15 865	559,0%
USA	42 239	158 499	116 260	275,2%
Central and South America	4 621	16 502	11 881	257,1%
Argentina	324	1 302	978	301,9%
Brazil	2 387	8 714	6 327	265,1%
Mexico	693	2 083	1 390	200,6%
Other	1 217	4 403	3 186	261,8%

Annexure A – Number of tourists' difference between Jan – Aug 2021 and Jan – Aug 2022 by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	Jan – Aug 2021	Jan – Aug 2022	Difference between Jan – Aug 2021 and Jan – Aug 2022	% change between Jan – Aug 2021 and Jan – Aug 2022
Australasia	2 073	31 905		
Australia	1 691	26 875	29 832	1439,1%
New Zealand	372	4 986	25 184	1489,3%
Other	10	44	4 614	1240,3%
			34	340,0%
Middle East	6 404	26 532	20 128	314,3%
Israel	1 339	9 827	8 488	633,9%
Saudi Arabia	2 970	8 561	5 591	188,2%
United Arab Emirates	131	2 512	2 381	1817,6%
Other	1 964	5 632	3 668	186,8%
Asia	24 735	69 832	45 097	182,3%
Bangladesh	1 445	4 757	3 312	229,2%
China	4 387	6 833	2 446	55,8%
India	9 141	33 198	24 057	263,2%
Japan	695	2 957	2 262	325,5%
Malaysia	378	1 535	1 157	306,1%
Pakistan	3 844	8 309	4 465	116,2%
Philippines	2 107	2 655	548	26,0%
Singapore	107	1 273	1 166	1089,7%
South Korea	701	2 885	2 184	311,6%
Thailand	688	1 681	993	144,3%
Other	1 242	3 749	2 507	201,9%
Africa	1 102 626	2 521 054	1 418 428	128,6%
SADC	1 075 186	2 463 053	1 387 867	129,1%
Angola	4 412	19 653	15 241	345,4%
Botswana	53 281	144 901	91 620	172,0%
DRC	7 074	11 924	4 850	68,6%
Eswatini	101 587	247 145	145 558	143,3%

Annexure A – Number of tourists' difference between Jan – Aug 2021 and Jan – Aug 2022 by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	Jan – Aug 2021	Jan – Aug 2022	Difference between Jan – Aug 2021 and Jan – Aug 2022	% change between Jan – Aug 2021 and Jan – Aug 2022
Lesotho	213 214	522 359	309 145	145,0%
Madagascar	139	902	763	548,9%
Malawi	31 109	65 710	34 601	111,2%
Mauritius	399	6 168	5 769	1445,9%
Mozambique	314 788	581 163	266 375	84,6%
Namibia	54 289	83 906	29 617	54,6%
Seychelles	110	1 269	1 159	1053,6%
Tanzania	7 509	15 867	8 358	111,3%
Zambia	40 363	72 227	31 864	78,9%
Zimbabwe	246 912	689 859	442 947	179,4%
'Other' African	27 440	58 001	30 561	111,4%
East and Central Africa	11 725	27 512	15 787	134,6%
Burundi	194	435	241	124,2%
Cameroon	1 128	2 047	919	81,5%
Central African Republic	25	59	34	136,0%
Chad	74	182	108	145,9%
Comoros	44	222	178	404,5%
Congo	579	928	349	60,3%
Djibouti	10	35	25	250,0%
Equatorial Guinea	65	124	59	90,8%
Eritrea	69	283	214	310,1%
Ethiopia	1 620	3 112	1 492	92,1%
Gabon	1 277	1 735	458	35,9%
Kenya	4 021	12 103	8 082	201,0%
Rwanda	140	407	267	190,7%
São Tomé and Príncipe	8	27	19	237,5%
Somalia	110	639	529	480,9%
Uganda	2 361	5 174	2 813	119,1%

Annexure A – Number of tourists' difference between Jan – Aug 2021 and Jan – Aug 2022 by country of residence (concluded)

Country of residence	Jan – Aug 2021	Jan – Aug 2022	Difference between Jan – Aug 2021 and Jan – Aug 2022	% change between Jan – Aug 2021 and Jan – Aug 2022
West Africa	13 042	24 431	11 389	87,3%
Benin	272	704	432	158,8%
Burkina Faso	78	325	247	316,7%
Cape Verde Island	25	134	109	436,0%
Côte d'Ivoire	272	1 122	850	312,5%
Gambia	50	171	121	242,0%
Ghana	4 058	9 326	5 268	129,8%
Guinea	284	515	231	81,3%
Guinea-Bissau	19	29	10	52,6%
Liberia	106	204	98	92,5%
Mali	227	428	201	88,5%
Mauritania	9	72	63	700,0%
Niger	46	98	52	113,0%
Nigeria	7 126	10 163	3 037	42,6%
Saint Helena	6	42	36	600,0%
Senegal	330	699	369	111,8%
Sierra Leone	82	250	168	204,9%
Togo	52	149	97	186,5%
North Africa	2 673	6 058	3 385	126,6%
Algeria	174	546	372	213,8%
Egypt	1 287	2 900	1 613	125,3%
Libya	260	383	123	47,3%
Morocco	208	663	455	218,8%
South Sudan	157	352	195	124,2%
The Sudan	438	742	304	69,4%
Tunisia	145	468	323	222,8%
Western Sahara	4	4	-	0,0%
Unspecified	2 298	5 713	3 415	148,6%

5. Explanatory notes

5.1 Introduction

Legal movements across South African borders, as well as legal immigration into South Africa, fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Home Affairs (DHA). Stats SA then processes, analyses and publishes this information.

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

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

5.2 Purpose of the statistical release

This release reports on arrivals, departures and transit travellers of South African residents and foreign travellers. Detailed information on the age and sex distribution; mode of travel; national and regional distribution; and purpose of travel of overnight visitors or tourists are also provided.

5.3 Scope and coverage

The release covers data collected by DHA officials on travellers who departed from or entered the Republic of South Africa (RSA).

5.4 Data

Information published in this release is based on data obtained from the following data sources within the DHA:

- Data routinely collected by immigration officers at all road, air and sea entry ports on all travellers (South African residents and foreign travellers) arriving into or departing from South Africa are captured into the DHA's population Movement Control System (MCS). The counts/statistics relate to the number of individual movements, rather than to the number of people. Hence, the multiple movements of individual people during the calendar month are each counted separately. Generally, the data are collected directly from travel documents either by scanning or capturing onto the ports' electronic database. No forms or cards are used (except on rare occasions when the capturing system is down) to collect information from travellers. Individual ports regularly transmit data onto the national database at the head office of the DHA.
- Stats SA receives downloaded data covering a particular calendar month from the DHA.
- As part of data interrogation, data from O.R. Tambo International Airport, which has the highest volume of travellers, are compared with passenger statistics from the Airports Company of South Africa (ACSA). As expected, in any specific month, an increase in the volume of passengers reported by ACSA is also reflected in an increase in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. A similar pattern is observed when the volume of travellers decreases. In August 2022, the DHA data was 1,3% higher than that of ACSA.

5.5 Limitations

5.5.1 Outbound tourists

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

5.5.2 Purpose of visit

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

5.6 Definition of terms

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

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

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

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

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

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

5.6.2 Definitions used specifically in this release

South African resident refers to either a South African citizen or a non-South African citizen with a South African permanent residence permit.

Foreign traveller refers to a traveller who is not a South African citizen or permanent resident.

Region refers to the following country classification:

- Overseas: Europe, North America, Central and South America, Australasia, the Middle East and Asia.
- Africa: SADC and 'other' Africa (East and Central Africa, West Africa and North Africa).

Country refers to individual countries within a region. The country of residence is used. The country of residence should not be confused with the country from which the visitor travelled.

Africa refers to all the countries in Africa (both mainland and island countries).

SADC refers to the fourteen countries, excluding South Africa, which belong to the Southern African Development Community.

'Other' African refers to all non-SADC African countries.

Overseas refers to all countries outside Africa.

Trip refers to the arrival and departure of a visitor in a specified month.

5.7 Symbols used

- = nil

< = less than

5.8 Rounding off

Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

6. General information

Stats SA publishes approximately 300 different statistical releases each year. It is not economically viable to produce them in more than one of South Africa's eleven official languages, since the releases are used extensively, not only locally but also by international economic and social-scientific communities. Stats SA releases are published in English.

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