



stats sa

Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

STATISTICAL RELEASE

P0351

Tourism and migration

January 2024

Embargoed until:
27 February 2024
10:00

ENQUIRIES:
Tshwaro Gae
Tel: (012) 310 8692

FORTHCOMING ISSUE:
February 2024

EXPECTED RELEASE DATE:
March 2024

Contents

List of tables	ii
List of figures	ii
Annexures	ii
Preface	iii
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 and ports of entry of tourists	10
3. Annexures	11
4. Explanatory notes	21
4.1 Introduction	21
4.2 Purpose of the statistical release	21
4.3 Scope and coverage	21
4.4 Data	21
4.5 Limitations.....	22
4.5.1 Outbound tourists	22
4.6 Definition of terms	22
4.6.1 Definitions used by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)	22
4.6.2 Definitions used specifically in this release	22
4.7 Symbols used	22
4.8 Rounding off.....	23
5. General information	23

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, January 2024	5
Figure 2 – Percentage distribution of tourists by region of residence and age, January 2024	6
Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the 10 leading overseas countries in January 2023 and January 2024	7
Figure 4 – Number of tourists from the 10 leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in January 2023 and January 2024	7
Figure 5 – Number of tourists from the 10 leading 'other' African countries in January 2023 and January 2024	8
Figure 6 – Percentage distribution of tourists by region of residence and mode of travel, January 2024	10

Annexures

3.1 Annexure A – Number of tourists' difference between January 2023 and January 2024 by country of residence	11
3.2 Annexure B – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, January 2024	14
3.3 Annexure C – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit, January 2024	17
3.4 Annexure D – Number of tourists by port of entry, January 2024	20

Preface

This monthly statistical release provides information on South African residents and foreign travellers who entered or left South Africa in January 2024. Specific focus is on foreign tourists who entered the country in January 2024. 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 number of tourists for the current quarter and comparisons with previous periods.

1. Highlights of the results

In January 2024, 3 033 431 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) entered and exited South Africa. They were made up of 28,7% South African residents and 71,3% foreign travellers. For foreign arrivals, 1 253 216 were made up of 2,9% non-visitors and 97,1% visitors. For visitors, 1 216 595 consisted of 20,1% same-day visitors and 79,9% overnight visitors (tourists).

Tourists

Overseas tourists constituted 20,1% (195 423) of all tourists. United Kingdom (UK) (40 517), Germany (31 072) and United States of America (USA) (22 447) contributed 48,1% to overseas tourists. Tourists from Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries constituted 78,7% (764 702) of all tourists. Zimbabwe (283 969), Mozambique (176 100) and Lesotho (165 235) contributed 81,8% to SADC tourists. 'Other' African countries (non-SADC) tourists were 1,1% (10 949) of all tourists. Kenya (3 001), Ghana (2 207) and Nigeria (1 726) contributed 63,3% to 'other' African tourists. The country of residence of 772 (0,1%) tourists was classified as unspecified.

Purpose of visit

'Holiday'¹ continues to be the main purpose of visit. About 97,2% 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 Department of Home Affairs’ (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into and out of South Africa shows that a total of 3 033 431 travellers (arrivals, departures, and transits) passed through South African ports in January 2024. As presented in Table 1 below, these travellers were made up of 871 032 South African residents and 2 162 399 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 513 276 arrivals, 357 249 departures and 507 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 1 253 216, 879 052 and 30 131, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in December 2023 and January 2024 indicates that the volume of arrivals increased yet the departures decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. The volume of transits increased for South African residents but decreased for foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 8,5% (from 473 131 in December 2023 to 513 276 in January 2024) whereas departures decreased by 42,4% (from 620 598 in December 2023 to 357 249 in January 2024). Travellers in transits increased by 13,4% (from 447 in December 2023 to 507 in January 2024). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 5,9% (from 1 183 035 in December 2023 to 1 253 216 in January 2024), departures decreased by 24,7% (from 1 167 550 in December 2023 to 879 052 in January 2024) and transits decreased by 11,4% (from 34 022 in December 2023 to 30 131 in January 2024).

A comparison between the movements in January 2023 and January 2024 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and travellers in transit increased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 5,8% (from 484 945 in January 2023 to 513 276 in January 2024), departures increased by 7,7% (from 331 830 in January 2023 to 357 249 in January 2024) and transits increased by 48,2% (from 342 in January 2023 to 507 in January 2024). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 12,6% (from 1 112 677 in January 2023 to 1 253 216 in January 2024), departures increased by 11,0% (from 792 116 in January 2023 to 879 052 in January 2024) and transits increased by 21,8% (from 24 738 in January 2023 to 30 131 in January 2024).

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

Travel Direction	January 2023	December 2023	January 2024	% Change Dec 2023 – Jan 2024	% Change Jan 2023 – Jan 2024
Total	2 746 648	3 478 783	3 033 431	-12,8%	10,4%
South African residents	817 117	1 094 176	871 032	-20,4%	6,6%
Arrivals	484 945	473 131	513 276	8,5%	5,8%
Departures	331 830	620 598	357 249	-42,4%	7,7%
Transits	342	447	507	13,4%	48,2%
Foreign travellers	1 929 531	2 384 607	2 162 399	-9,3%	12,1%
Arrivals	1 112 677	1 183 035	1 253 216	5,9%	12,6%
Departures	792 116	1 167 550	879 052	-24,7%	11,0%
Transits	24 738	34 022	30 131	-11,4%	21,8%

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 January 2024, road was the most common mode of travel used by 2 041 382 (67,3%) of the 3 033 431 travellers. Total number of travellers who used air was 933 800 (30,8%). Compared to air and land, a smaller number of travellers, 58 249 (1,9%) used sea into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 202 258 (39,4%) came by air, 289 621 (56,4%) came by road and 21 397 (4,2%) arrived by sea. For departures, 155 960 (43,7%) used air, 181 002 (50,7%) used road and 20 287 (5,7%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 507 (100,0%) used air.

In the case of foreign travellers, 257 320 (20,5%) arrived by air, 990 406 (79,0%) came by road and 5 490 (0,4%) arrived by sea. When departing South Africa, 287 624 (32,7%) foreign travellers left by air, 580 353 (66,0%) left by road and 11 075 (1,3%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 30 131 (100,0%) used air.

Table 2 – Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction and mode of travel

Travel direction	Total	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	3 033 431	312 120	26 110	593 738	1 832	933 800	2 041 382	58 249
South African residents	871 032	77 490	17 861	262 243	1 131	358 725	470 623	41 684
Arrivals	513 276	43 154	9 876	148 645	583	202 258	289 621	21 397
Departures	357 249	34 331	7 985	113 096	548	155 960	181 002	20 287
Transit	507	5	-	502	-	507	-	-
Foreign travellers	2 162 399	234 630	8 249	331 495	701	575 075	1 570 759	16 565
Arrivals	1 253 216	114 885	3 357	138 597	481	257 320	990 406	5 490
Departures	879 052	119 425	4 891	163 088	220	287 624	580 353	11 075
Transit	30 131	320	1	29 810	-	30 131	-	-
Visitors	1 216 595	111 162	2 753	133 461	264	247 640	965 919	3 036
Same-day	244 749	1 229	54	12 522	34	13 839	230 460	450
Tourists	971 846	109 933	2 699	120 939	230	233 801	735 459	2 586

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 January 2024, 36 621 (2,9%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors, while 1 216 595 (97,1%) were classified as visitors. Visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in January 2024 but did not depart in January 2024 [590 447 (48,5%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in January 2024 and left in January 2024 [301 591 (24,8%)];
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in January 2024 [324 557 (26,7%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In January 2024, there were 244 749 (20,1%) same-day visitors and 971 846 (79,9%) tourists. Between December 2023 and January 2024, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 17,8% (from 297 585 in December 2023 to 244 749 in January 2024) whereas that of tourists increased by 12,7% (from 862 460 in December 2023 to 971 846 in January 2024). Between January 2023 and January 2024, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 12,9% (from 216 730 in January 2023 to 244 749 in January 2024) and that of tourists increased by 14,4% (from 849 675 in January 2023 to 971 846 in January 2024).

Table 2 on page 3 further shows that of the 244 749 same-day visitors, a majority, 230 460 (94,2%) arrived in the country by road, 13 839 (5,7%) arrived by air and 450 (0,2%) arrived by sea. Information on tourists shows that 735 459 (75,7%) used road, 233 801 (24,1%) came by air and 2 586 (0,3%) arrived by sea.

Table 3 – Number of visitors by type of visitor

Travel Direction	January 2023	December 2023	January 2024	% Change Dec 2023 – Jan 2024	% Change Jan 2023 – Jan 2024
Foreign arrivals	1 112 677	1 183 035	1 253 216	5,9%	12,6%
Non-visitors	46 272	22 990	36 621	59,3%	-20,9%
Visitors	1 066 405	1 160 045	1 216 595	4,9%	14,1%
Visitors	1 066 405	1 160 045	1 216 595	4,9%	14,1%
Arrivals only	501 753	378 171	590 447	56,1%	17,7%
Single trips	272 074	407 369	301 591	-26,0%	10,8%
Multiple trips	292 578	374 505	324 557	-13,3%	10,9%
Visitors	1 066 405	1 160 045	1 216 595	4,9%	14,1%
Same-day	216 730	297 585	244 749	-17,8%	12,9%
Tourists	849 675	862 460	971 846	12,7%	14,4%

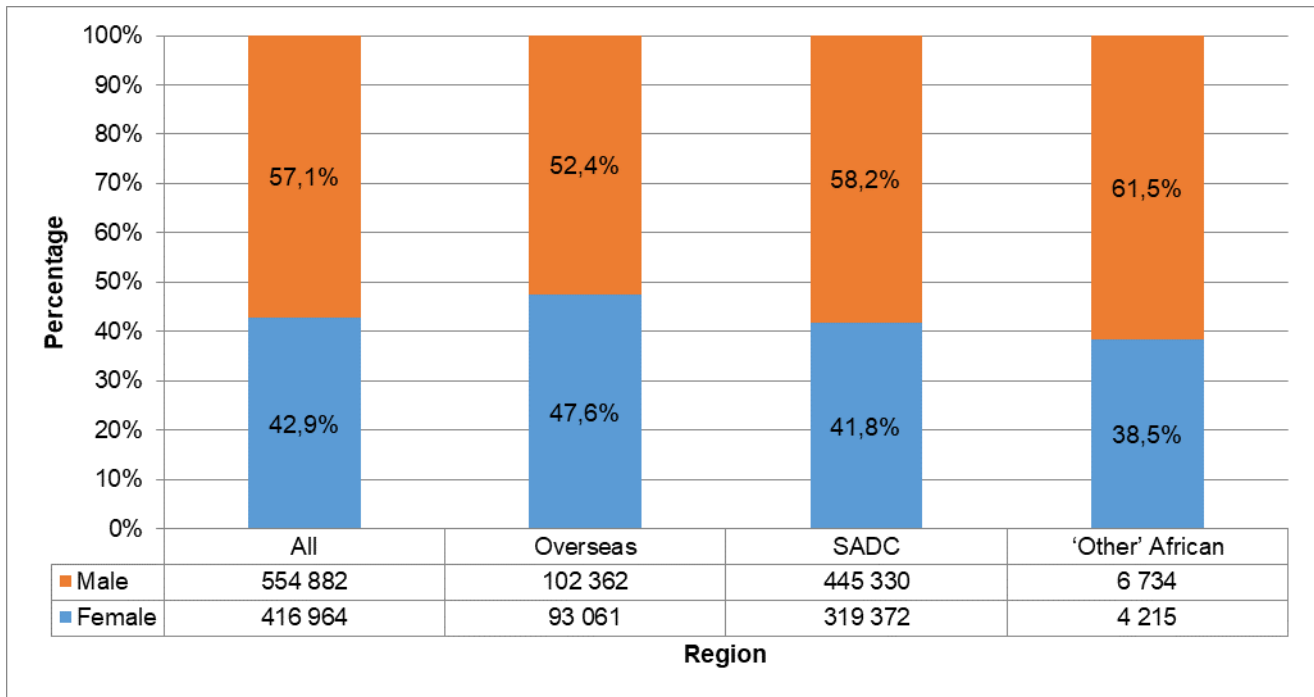
2.3 Tourists

2.3.1 Sex and age distribution of tourists

Sex

Figure 1 on page 5 shows that there were more male [554 882 (57,1%)] than female [416 964 (42,9%)] tourists in January 2024. Male tourists constituted the majority of tourists for all three regions, SADC countries [445 330 (58,2%)], overseas countries [102 362 (52,4%)] and 'other' African countries [6 734 (61,5%)]. Similarly, the largest portion of female tourists was from SADC countries [319 372 (41,8%)], followed by overseas countries [93 061 (47,6%)] and 'other' African countries [4 215 (38,5%)].

Figure 1 – Percentage distribution of tourists by region of residence and sex, January 2024

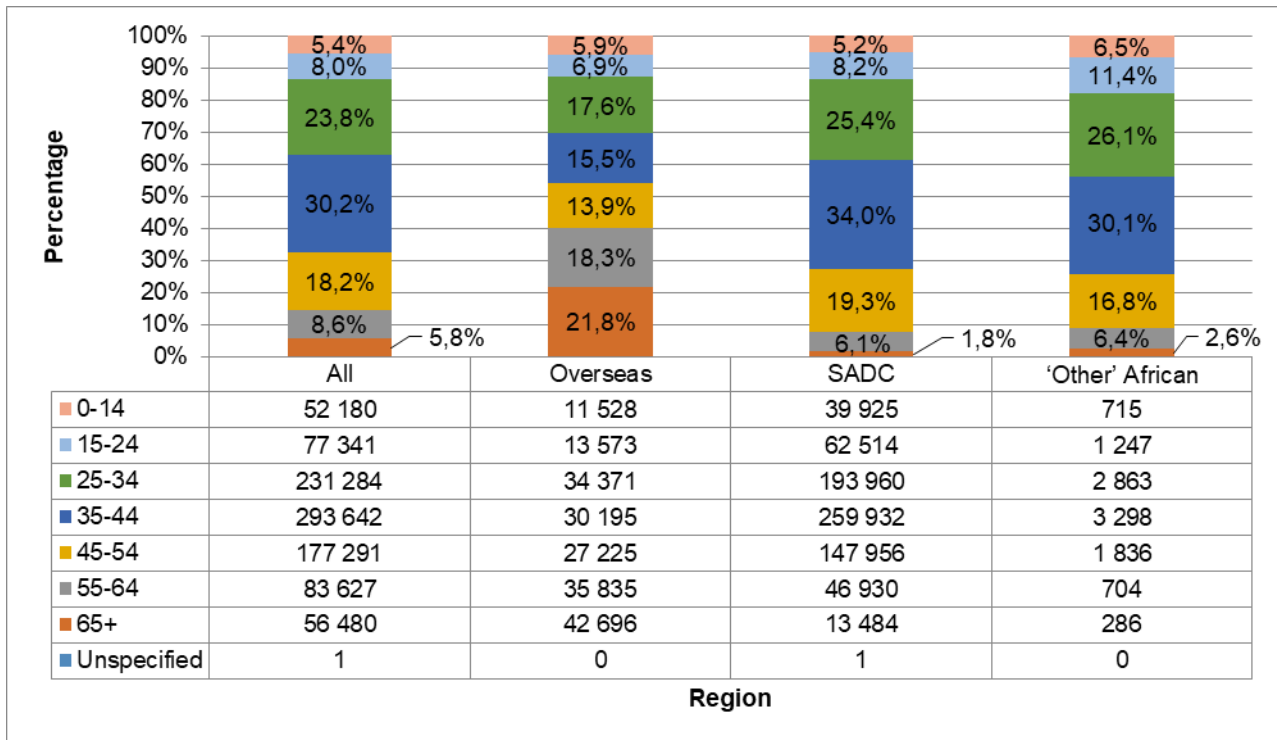


Age

The age distribution indicates that out of all tourists, [52 180 (5,4%)] were aged younger than 15 years; [77 341 (8,0%)] were aged between 15 and 24 years; [231 284 (23,8%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years; [293 642 (30,2%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years; [177 291 (18,2%)] were aged between 45 and 54 years; [83 627 (8,6%)] were aged between 55 and 64 years; [56 480 (5,8%)] were aged 65 years and older and [1 (less than 0,1%)] was unspecified (see Figure 2 on page 6).

Taking the region of residence into consideration, the results show that the highest proportion of tourists from SADC countries [259 932 (34,0%)] and those from 'other' African countries [3 298 (30,1%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years whereas those from overseas countries 42 696 (21,8%) were aged 65 years and older. The second highest proportion of tourists from SADC countries [193 960 (25,4%)] and those from 'other' African countries [2 863 (26,1%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years whereas those from overseas countries [35 835 (18,3%)] were aged between 55 and 64 years. The median ages of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African countries were 48, 38 and 36 years respectively. The proportion of tourists aged younger than 15 years was higher among tourists from 'other' African countries, 6,5% (715) compared to those from overseas countries, 5,9% (11 528) and those from SADC countries, 5,2% (39 925).

Figure 2 – Percentage distribution of tourists by region of residence and age, January 2024

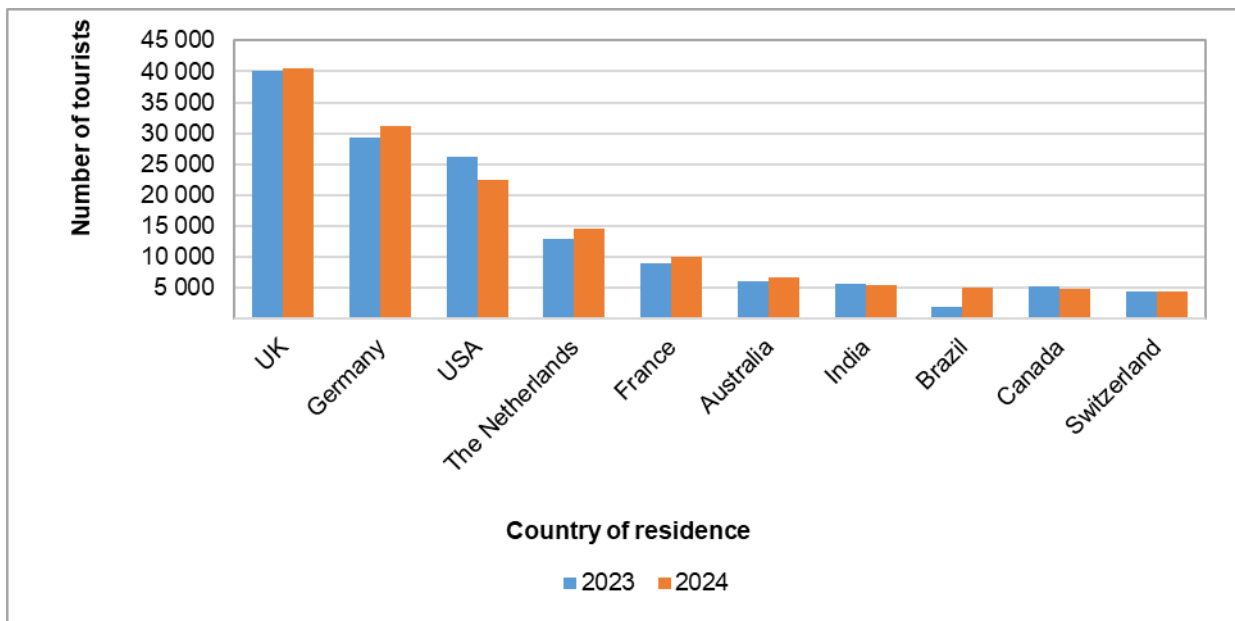


2.3.2 Regional and national distribution of tourists

In January 2024, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 135 368 (69,3%); North America, 27 250 (13,9%); Asia, 15 221 (7,8%); Australasia, 7 994 (4,1%); Central and South America, 7 149 (3,7%) and Middle East, 2 441 (1,2%).

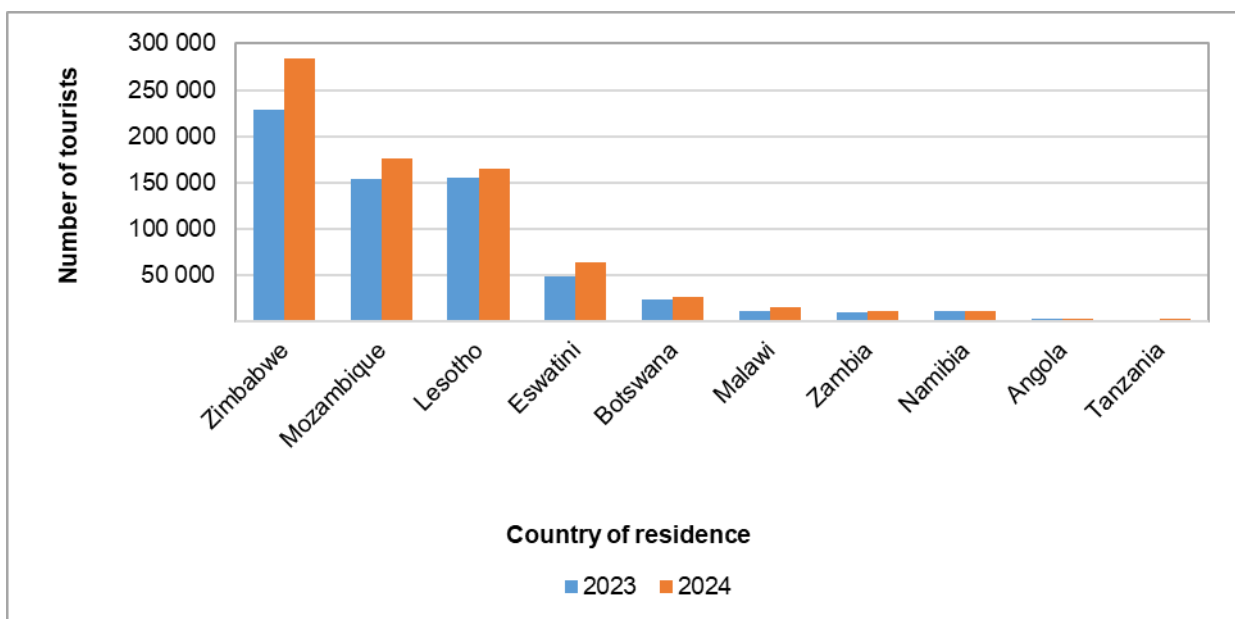
Figure 3 on page 7 indicates that the 10 leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in January 2024 were: UK, 40 517 (20,7%); Germany, 31 072 (15,9%); USA, 22 447 (11,5%); The Netherlands, 14 564 (7,5%); France, 10 070 (5,2%); Australia, 6 652 (3,4%); India, 5 524 (2,8%); Brazil, 4 997 (2,6%); Canada, 4 803 (2,5%) and Switzerland, 4 363 (2,2%). Tourists from these 10 countries constituted 74,2% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the 10 leading countries between January 2023 and January 2024 shows that the number of tourists increased for 6 of the 10 leading countries. Brazil (170,5%), showed the highest year-on-year increase.

Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the 10 leading overseas countries in January 2023 and January 2024



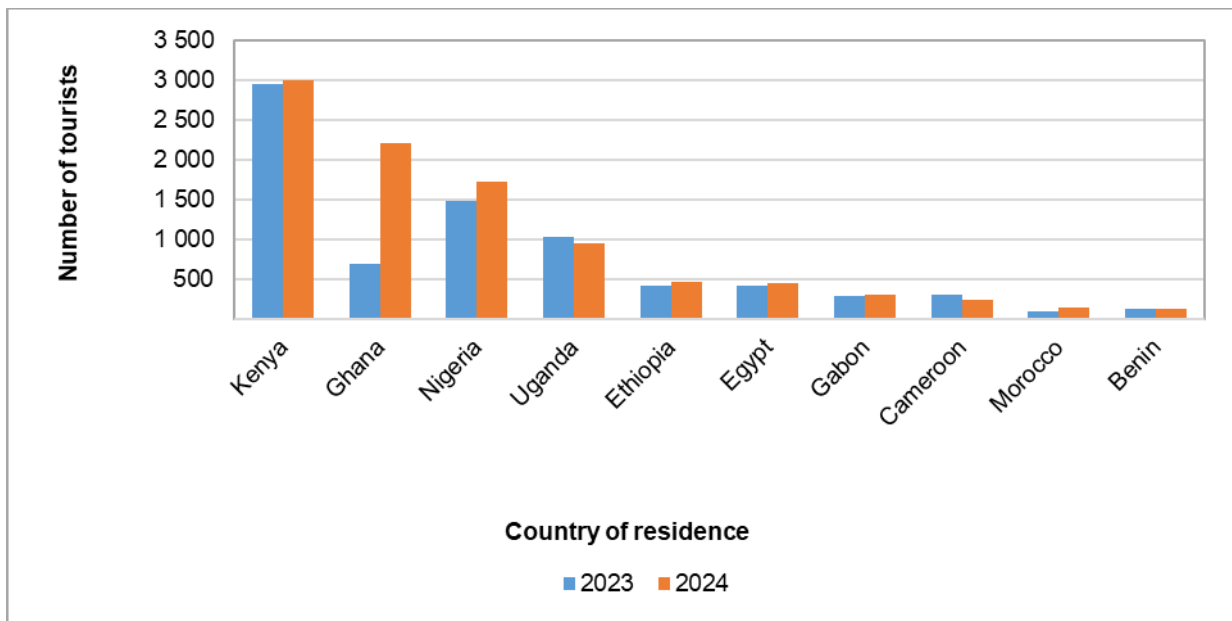
Virtually, most tourists from Africa, 764 702 (98,6%), came from SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa was as follows: East and Central Africa, 5 446 (0,7%); West Africa, 4 581 (0,6%) and North Africa 922 (0,1%). Ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in January 2024 were: Zimbabwe, 283 969 (37,1%); Mozambique, 176 100 (23,0%); Lesotho, 165 235 (21,6%); Eswatini, 63 679 (8,3%); Botswana, 26 682 (3,5%); Malawi, 16 038 (2,1%); Zambia, 11 950 (1,6%); Namibia, 11 821 (1,5%); Angola, 2 847 (0,4%) and Tanzania, 2 647 (0,3%) (see Figure 4 below). Tourists from these 10 countries constituted 99,5% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison of movements in the 10 leading countries between January 2023 and January 2024 shows that the number of tourists increased for 9 of the 10 leading countries. Malawi (37,4%) showed the highest year-on-year increase.

Figure 4 – Number of tourists from the 10 leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in January 2023 and January 2024



The 10 leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in January 2024 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 5 below, were: Kenya, 3 001 (27,4%); Ghana, 2 207 (20,2%); Nigeria, 1 726 (15,8%); Uganda, 948 (8,7%); Ethiopia, 464 (4,2%); Egypt, 444 (4,1%); Gabon, 309 (2,8%); Cameroon, 231 (2,1%); Morocco, 142 (1,3%) and Benin, 121 (1,1%). Tourists from these 10 countries constituted 87,6% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in January 2023 and January 2024 shows that the number of tourists increased for 7 of the 10 leading countries. Ghana (219,4%) showed the highest year-on-year increase.

Figure 5 – Number of tourists from the 10 leading 'other' African countries in January 2023 and January 2024



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 17 to 19. It is observed that in January 2024, the majority of tourists, 944 919 (97,2%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 20 241 (2,1%); 6 449 (0,7%) and 237 (less than 0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and medical treatment respectively.

Within the overseas regions, Australasia, 99,3% (7 942) had the highest proportion of tourists who came for holiday followed by North America, 98,6% (26 860); Europe, 98,5% (133 398); Central and South America, 98,5% (7 040); The Middle East, 95,4% (2 329) and Asia, 93,0% (14 162).

Asia, 4,0% (607) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for business, followed by The Middle East, 1,6% (38); Europe, 0,9% (1 167); North America, 0,8% (212); Central and South America, 0,6% (45) and Australasia, 0,5% (37).

The Middle East, 3,0% (74) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to study, followed by Asia, 2,9% (443); Central and South America, 0,9% (63); North America, 0,6% (174); Europe, 0,6% (762) and Australasia, 0,2% (13).

Asia (9) had 0,1% of medical treatment tourists. Europe (41), North America (4), Australasia (2) and Central and South America (1) had less than 0,1% of medical treatment tourists whereas The Middle East had none.

Majority of African tourists, 752 454 (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% (742 813) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 88,1% (9 641) from 'other' African countries. Information on the regions of 'other' African countries shows that 89,5% (4 100) of tourists from West Africa were on holiday, followed by tourists from East and Central Africa, 88,0% (4 792) and those from North Africa, 81,2% (749).
- Business persons constituted 2,3% (17 738) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 3,3% (361) from 'other' African countries. North Africa, 6,7% (62) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes, followed by East and Central Africa, 3,2% (172) and West Africa, 2,8% (127).
- Students constituted 0,5% (4 014) of tourists from SADC countries compared with 8,3% (905) from 'other' African countries. North Africa, 11,9% (110) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes, followed by East and Central Africa, 8,4% (455) and West Africa, 7,4% (340).
- Tourists who came for medical treatment constituted less than 0,1% (137) of tourists from SADC countries, while those from 'other' African countries constituted 0,4% (42). East and Central Africa, 0,5% (27) had the highest proportion of tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by West Africa, 0,3% (14) and North Africa, 0,1% (1).

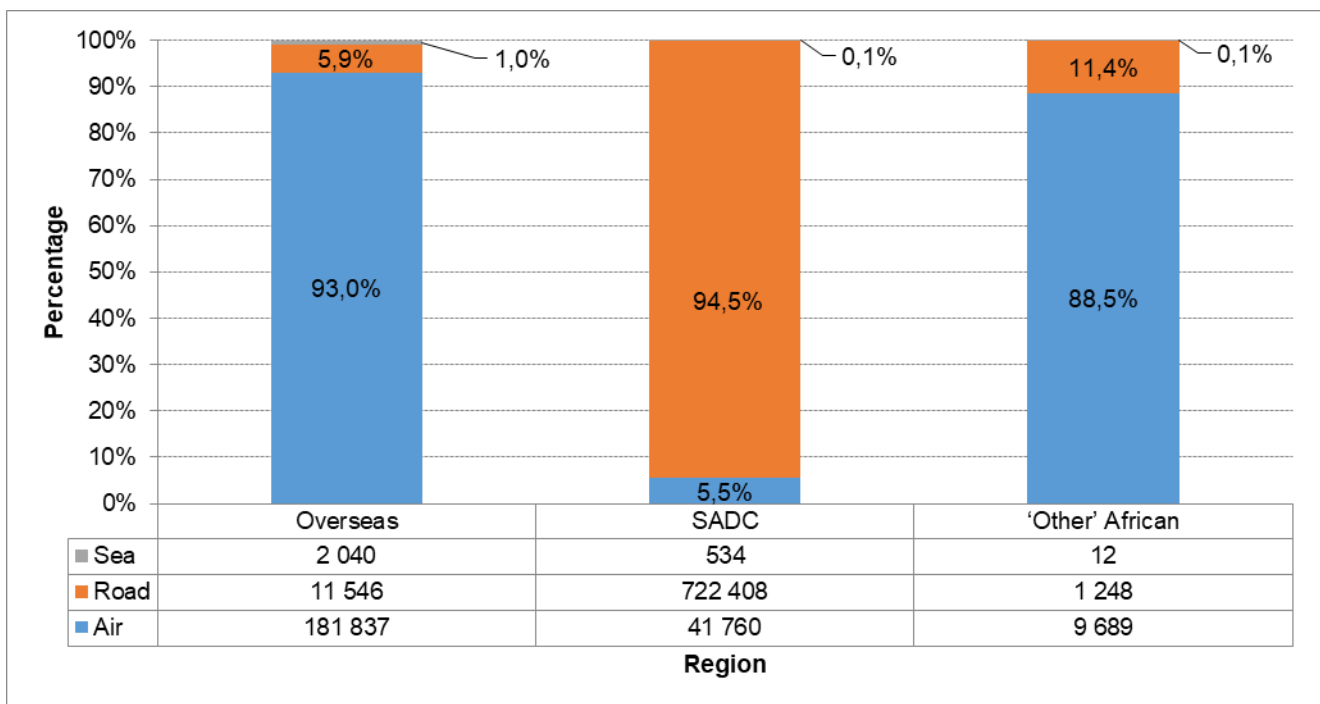
Table 4 – Number of tourists by region of residence and purpose of visit

Region of residence	January 2024	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Total	971 846	20 241	944 919	6 449	237
Overseas	195 423	2 106	191 731	1 529	57
Europe	135 368	1 167	133 398	762	41
North America	27 250	212	26 860	174	4
Central and South America	7 149	45	7 040	63	1
Australasia	7 994	37	7 942	13	2
Middle East	2 441	38	2 329	74	-
Asia	15 221	607	14 162	443	9
Africa	775 651	18 099	752 454	4 919	179
SADC	764 702	17 738	742 813	4 014	137
'Other' African	10 949	361	9 641	905	42
East and Central Africa	5 446	172	4 792	455	27
West Africa	4 581	127	4 100	340	14
North Africa	922	62	749	110	1
Unspecified	772	36	734	1	1

2.3.4 Mode of travel and ports of entry 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 14 to 16. As shown in Figure 6 below, 181 837 (93,0%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 11 546 (5,9%) came in by road and 2 040 (1,0%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the SADC countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 722 408 (94,5%), whilst 41 760 (5,5%) came by air and 534 (0,1%) arrived by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 9 689 (88,5%); while 1 248 (11,4%) used road transport and 12 (0,1%) preferred sea. Most tourists who arrived by road came through Beit Bridge port (247 404) followed by Lebombo (169 310), while the majority of tourists who came by air entered through OR Tambo International Airport (120 939) and Cape Town International Airport (109 933). Tourists who arrived by sea came through Cape Town Harbour (1 463) and Durban Harbour (1 123) (see Annex D on page 20).

Figure 6 – Percentage distribution of tourists by region of residence and mode of travel, January 2024



3. Annexures

3.1 Annexure A – Number of tourists' difference between January 2023 and January 2024 by country of residence

Country of residence	January 2023	January 2024	Difference between January 2023 and January 2024	% change between January 2023 and January 2024
Total	849 675	971 846	122 201	14,4%
Overseas	187 189	195 423	8 234	4,4%
Europe	128 898	135 368	6 470	5,0%
Austria	2 572	2 571	-1	-
Belgium	3 418	3 799	381	11,1%
Denmark	2 242	2 212	-30	-1,3%
France	9 016	10 070	1 054	11,7%
Germany	29 363	31 072	1 709	5,8%
Ireland	2 667	3 108	441	16,5%
Italy	3 677	3 475	-202	-5,5%
Russian Federation	2 947	2 884	-63	-2,1%
Spain	1 804	1 712	-92	-5,1%
Sweden	3 445	3 591	146	4,2%
Switzerland	4 386	4 363	-23	-0,5%
The Netherlands	12 930	14 564	1 634	12,6%
Turkey	1 682	2 045	363	21,6%
UK	40 044	40 517	473	1,2%
Other	8 705	9 385	680	7,8%
North America	31 421	27 250	-4 171	-13,3%
Canada	5 243	4 803	-440	-8,4%
USA	26 178	22 447	-3 731	-14,3%
Central and South America	3 689	7 149	3 460	93,8%
Argentina	536	723	187	34,9%
Brazil	1 847	4 997	3 150	170,5%
Chile	175	272	97	55,4%
Other	1 131	1 157	26	2,3%
Australasia	7 452	7 994	542	7,3%
Australia	6 145	6 652	507	8,3%
New Zealand	1 301	1 330	29	2,2%
Other	6	12	6	100,0%
Middle East	3 262	2 441	-821	-25,2%
Israel	1 862	611	-1 251	-67,2%
Jordan	168	190	22	13,1%
Saudi Arabia	652	1 047	395	60,6%
Other	580	593	13	2,2%
			0	
Asia	12 467	15 221	2 754	22,1%
Bangladesh	703	520	-183	-26,0%
China	1 174	2 780	1 606	136,8%
India	5 565	5 524	-41	-0,7%
Japan	653	1 021	368	56,4%
Malaysia	259	367	108	41,7%
Pakistan	1 024	1 072	48	4,7%
Philippines	418	458	40	9,6%
Singapore	275	388	113	41,1%

Annexure A – Number of tourists' difference between January 2023 and January 2024 by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	January 2023	January 2024	Difference between January 2023 and January 2024	% change between January 2023 and January 2024
South Korea	987	1 662	675	68,4%
Thailand	250	330	80	32,0%
Other	1 159	1 099	-60	-5,2%
Africa	661 606	775 651	114 045	17,2%
SADC	652 392	764 702	112 310	17,2%
Angola	3151	2 847	-304	-9,6%
Botswana	24273	26 682	2 409	9,9%
DRC	1340	1 740	400	29,9%
Eswatini	48766	63 679	14 913	30,6%
Lesotho	155187	165 235	10 048	6,5%
Madagascar	197	320	123	62,4%
Malawi	11671	16 038	4 367	37,4%
Mauritius	1108	1 246	138	12,5%
Mozambique	153476	176 100	22 624	14,7%
Namibia	11482	11 821	339	3,0%
Seychelles	361	428	67	18,6%
Tanzania	2446	2 647	201	8,2%
Zambia	10300	11 950	1 650	16,0%
Zimbabwe	228634	283 969	55 335	24,2%
'Other' African	9 214	10 949	1 735	18,8%
East and Central Africa	5469	5 446	-23	-0,4%
Burundi	84	96	12	14,3%
Cameroon	297	231	-66	-22,2%
Central African Republic	16	10	-6	-37,5%
Chad	24	31	7	29,2%
Comoros	24	17	-7	-29,2%
Congo	120	89	-31	-25,8%
Djibouti	10	9	-1	-10,0%
Equatorial Guinea	19	23	4	21,1%
Eritrea	40	46	6	15,0%
Ethiopia	417	464	47	11,3%
Gabon	279	309	30	10,8%
Kenya	2943	3 001	58	2,0%
Réunion	6	20	14	233,3%
Rwanda	88	91	3	3,4%
São Tomé and Príncipe	11	5	-6	-54,5%
Somalia	59	56	-3	-5,1%
Uganda	1032	948	-84	-8,1%
West Africa	2869	4 581	1 712	59,7%
Benin	122	121	-1	-0,8%
Burkina Faso	41	28	-13	-31,7%
Cape Verde Island	31	14	-17	-54,8%
Côte d'Ivoire	117	104	-13	-11,1%
Gambia	30	28	-2	-6,7%
Ghana	691	2 207	1 516	219,4%
Guinea	114	101	-13	-11,4%
Guinea-Bissau	10	6	-4	-40,0%
Liberia	24	24	0	-

Annexure A – Number of tourists' difference between January 2023 and January 2024 by country of residence (concluded)

Country of residence	January 2023	January 2024	Difference between January 2023 and January 2024	% change between January 2023 and January 2024
Mali	45	56	11	24,4%
Mauritania	7	12	5	71,4%
Niger	17	25	8	47,1%
Nigeria	1473	1 726	253	17,2%
Saint Helena	1	5	4	400,0%
Senegal	89	81	-8	-9,0%
Sierra Leone	35	26	-9	-25,7%
Togo	22	17	-5	-22,7%
North Africa	876	922	46	5,3%
Algeria	61	53	-8	-13,1%
Egypt	407	444	37	9,1%
Libya	53	70	17	32,1%
Morocco	87	142	55	63,2%
South Sudan	55	55	0	0,0%
The Sudan	129	65	-64	-49,6%
Tunisia	84	90	6	7,1%
Unspecified	880	772	-108	-12,3%

3.2 Annexure B – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, January 2024

Country of residence	January 2024	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	971 846	109 933	2 699	120 939	230	233 801	735 459	2 586
Overseas	195 423	101 362	2 101	78 265	109	181 837	11 546	2 040
Europe	135 368	78 935	1 269	46 316	95	126 615	7 244	1 509
Austria	2 571	1 690	49	698	1	2 438	111	22
Belgium	3 799	2 090	32	1 322	1	3 445	339	15
Denmark	2 212	938	37	1 150	-	2 125	86	1
France	10 070	4 004	44	5 043	15	9 106	953	11
Germany	31 072	20 712	181	7 957	18	28 868	1 278	926
Ireland	3 108	1 897	67	1 004	2	2 970	112	26
Italy	3 475	1 821	45	1 410	9	3 285	174	16
Russian Federation	2 884	1 695	16	1 004	5	2 720	141	23
Spain	1 712	753	29	796	10	1 588	118	6
Sweden	3 591	2 184	27	1 202	-	3 413	173	5
Switzerland	4 363	2 475	25	1 534	-	4 034	256	73
The Netherlands	14 564	9 019	94	4 102	1	13 216	1 316	32
Turkey	2 045	1 326	39	602	-	1 967	76	2
UK	40 517	23 703	461	14 924	26	39 114	1 121	282
Other	9 385	4 628	123	3 568	7	8 326	990	69
North America	27 250	13 067	105	12 376	7	25 555	1 388	307
Canada	4 803	2 157	27	2 225	1	4 410	342	51
USA	22 447	10 910	78	10 151	6	21 145	1 046	256
Central and South America	7 149	2 156	8	4 615	3	6 782	331	36
Argentina	723	188	2	505	2	697	24	2
Brazil	4 997	1 524	-	3 234	1	4 759	214	24
Chile	272	36	1	224	-	261	11	-
Other	1 157	408	5	652	-	1 065	82	10
Australasia	7 994	2 104	175	5 246	1	7 526	423	45
Australia	6 652	1 714	111	4 453	1	6 279	332	41
New Zealand	1 330	387	64	786	-	1 237	89	4
Other	12	3	-	7	-	10	2	-
Middle East	2 441	1 279	18	1 050	-	2 347	94	-
Israel	611	177	1	402	-	580	31	-
Saudi Arabia	1 047	781	9	255	-	1 045	2	-
Other	783	321	8	393	-	722	61	-
Asia	15 221	3 821	526	8 662	3	13 012	2 066	143
Bangladesh	520	100	60	262	-	422	97	1
China	2 780	521	35	2 019	-	2 575	179	26
India	5 524	1 061	170	3 357	1	4 589	903	32
Japan	1 021	266	50	621	-	937	83	1
Malaysia	367	97	25	226	-	348	17	2
Pakistan	1 072	105	66	406	-	577	491	4
Philippines	458	115	53	191	1	360	43	55
Singapore	388	149	1	236	-	386	2	-

Annexure B – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, January 2024 (continued)

Country of residence	January 2024	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
South Korea	1 662	925	22	617	1	1 565	97	-
Thailand	330	92	11	216	-	319	10	1
Other	1 099	390	33	511	-	934	144	21
Africa	775 651	8 508	598	42 223	120	51 449	723 656	546
SADC	764 702	6 503	563	34 586	108	41 760	722 408	534
Angola	2 847	969	-	1 246	4	2 219	628	-
Botswana	26 682	264	1	1 834	5	2 104	24 517	61
DRC	1 740	76	3	1 389	12	1 480	259	1
Eswatini	63 679	157	50	586	4	797	62 851	31
Lesotho	165 235	7	9	380	-	396	164 779	60
Madagascar	320	10	2	277	-	289	31	-
Malawi	16 038	26	2	1 383	1	1 412	14 623	3
Mauritius	1 246	366	3	791	-	1 160	81	5
Mozambique	176 100	1 530	12	5 279	55	6 876	169 013	211
Namibia	11 821	1 296	1	1 857	1	3 155	8 587	79
Seychelles	428	10	2	395	-	407	21	-
Tanzania	2 647	221	1	1 377	-	1 599	1 046	2
Zambia	11 950	131	77	3 219	4	3 431	8 513	6
Zimbabwe	283 969	1 440	400	14 573	22	16 435	267 459	75
'Other' African	10 949	2 005	35	7 637	12	9 689	1 248	12
East and Central Africa	5 446	1 236	10	3 508	5	4 759	686	1
Burundi	96	22	-	69	-	91	5	-
Cameroon	231	40	-	177	-	217	14	-
Central African Republic	10	-	-	7	3	10	-	-
Chad	31	3	-	28	-	31	-	-
Comoros	17	2	-	15	-	17	-	-
Congo	89	38	-	47	-	85	4	-
Djibouti	9	-	-	9	-	9	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	23	2	-	18	-	20	3	-
Eritrea	46	5	-	39	-	44	2	-
Ethiopia	464	72	1	319	-	392	72	-
Gabon	309	52	-	238	2	292	17	-
Kenya	3 001	767	9	1 759	-	2 535	465	1
Réunion	20	20	-	-	-	20	-	-
Rwanda	91	13	-	68	-	81	10	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	5	1	-	3	-	4	1	-
Somalia	56	5	-	21	-	26	30	-
Uganda	948	194	-	691	-	885	63	-
West Africa	4 581	552	8	3 500	6	4 066	504	11
Benin	121	11	-	98	-	109	12	-
Burkina Faso	28	3	-	25	-	28	-	-
Cape Verde Island	14	1	-	9	-	10	4	-
Côte d'Ivoire	104	9	-	93	-	102	2	-
Gambia	28	4	-	21	-	25	3	-
Ghana	2 207	219	-	1 735	-	1 954	245	8
Guinea	101	3	-	36	2	41	60	-
Guinea-Bissau	6	-	-	4	-	4	2	-

Annexure B – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, January 2024 (concluded)

Country of residence	January 2024	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Liberia	24	3	-	15	2	20	4	-
Mali	56	6	2	28	-	36	20	-
Mauritania	12	3	-	9	-	12	-	-
Niger	25	5	-	19	1	25	-	-
Nigeria	1 726	267	2	1 313	-	1 582	141	3
Saint Helena	5	-	-	4	1	5	-	-
Senegal	81	14	3	61	-	78	3	-
Sierra Leone	26	2	1	15	-	18	8	-
Togo	17	2	-	15	-	17	-	-
North Africa	922	217	17	629	1	864	58	-
Algeria	53	2	-	47	-	49	4	-
Egypt	444	89	9	325	1	424	20	-
Libya	70	8	-	48	-	56	14	-
Morocco	142	57	3	72	-	132	10	-
South Sudan	55	12	-	43	-	55	-	-
The Sudan	65	15	-	43	-	58	7	-
Tunisia	90	34	5	48	-	87	3	-
Western Sahara	3	-	-	3	-	3	-	-
Unspecified	772	63	-	451	1	515	257	-

3.3 Annexure C – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit, January 2024

Country of residence	January 2024	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical Treatment
Total	971 846	20 241	944 919	6 449	237
Overseas	195 423	2 106	191 731	1 529	57
Europe	135 368	1 167	133 398	762	41
Austria	2 571	11	2 549	11	-
Belgium	3 799	48	3 730	21	-
Denmark	2 212	22	2 181	9	-
France	10 070	99	9 787	184	-
Germany	31 072	171	30 696	204	1
Ireland	3 108	39	3 049	18	2
Italy	3 475	47	3 382	45	1
Russian Federation	2 884	17	2 856	11	-
Spain	1 712	28	1 668	16	-
Sweden	3 591	30	3 555	6	-
Switzerland	4 363	17	4 323	23	-
The Netherlands	14 564	92	14 427	35	10
Turkey	2 045	19	2 008	18	-
UK	40 517	428	39 980	84	25
Other	9 385	99	9 207	77	2
North America	27 250	212	26 860	174	4
Canada	4 803	30	4 751	21	1
USA	22 447	182	22 109	153	3
Central and South America	7 149	45	7 040	63	1
Argentina	723	10	710	3	-
Brazil	4 997	15	4 943	38	1
Chile	272	6	265	1	-
Other	1 157	14	1 122	21	-
Australasia	7 994	37	7 942	13	2
Australia	6 652	31	6 608	11	2
New Zealand	1 330	5	1 323	2	-
Other	12	1	11	-	-
Middle East	2 441	38	2 329	74	-
Israel	611	9	595	7	-
Jordan	190	6	184	-	-
Saudi Arabia	1 047	6	1 018	23	-
Other	593	17	532	44	-
Asia	15 221	607	14 162	443	9
Bangladesh	520	14	495	9	2
China	2 780	144	2 570	66	-
India	5 524	300	4 997	224	3
Japan	1 021	19	982	20	-
Malaysia	367	5	348	14	-
Pakistan	1 072	19	1 032	20	1
Philippines	458	12	435	9	2
Singapore	388	12	375	1	-

Annexure C – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit, January 2024 (continued)

Country of residence	January 2024	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical Treatment
South Korea	1 662	14	1 601	47	-
Thailand	330	5	322	3	-
Other	1 099	63	1 005	30	1
Africa	775 651	18 099	752 454	4 919	179
SADC	764 702	17 738	742 813	4 014	137
Angola	2 847	50	2 585	193	19
Botswana	26 682	623	25 559	489	11
DRC	1 740	37	1 584	99	20
Eswatini	63 679	2 420	60 992	263	4
Lesotho	165 235	1 223	163 199	795	18
Madagascar	320	1	311	8	-
Malawi	16 038	250	15 662	123	3
Mauritius	1 246	16	1 184	43	3
Mozambique	176 100	4 597	171 392	107	4
Namibia	11 821	2 785	8 471	552	13
Seychelles	428	3	421	4	-
Tanzania	2 647	72	2 450	120	5
Zambia	11 950	2 898	8 877	170	5
Zimbabwe	283 969	2 763	280 126	1 048	32
'Other' African	10 949	361	9 641	905	42
East and Central Africa	5 446	172	4 792	455	27
Burundi	96	1	83	9	3
Cameroon	231	12	176	38	5
Central African Republic	10	-	6	-	4
Chad	31	3	25	3	-
Comoros	17	4	11	2	-
Congo	89	3	77	8	1
Djibouti	9	3	6	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	23	1	19	3	-
Eritrea	46	-	41	5	-
Ethiopia	464	19	415	27	3
Gabon	309	-	260	46	3
Kenya	3 001	84	2 747	168	2
Réunion	20	-	20	-	-
Rwanda	91	9	75	7	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	5	-	5	-	-
Somalia	56	11	41	4	-
Uganda	948	22	785	135	6
West Africa	4 581	127	4 100	340	14
Benin	121	-	110	10	1
Burkina Faso	28	2	24	2	-
Cape Verde Island	14	2	12	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	104	8	81	15	-
Gambia	28	5	22	1	-
Ghana	2 207	38	2 130	36	3
Guinea	101	1	93	5	2
Guinea-Bissau	6	-	6	-	-

Annexure C – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit, January 2024 (concluded)

Country of residence	January 2024	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical Treatment
Liberia	24	-	19	3	2
Mali	56	1	45	9	1
Mauritania	12	1	10	1	-
Niger	25	1	20	3	1
Nigeria	1 726	61	1 414	248	3
Saint Helena	5	-	4	-	1
Senegal	81	6	72	3	-
Sierra Leone	26	1	22	3	-
Togo	17	-	16	1	-
North Africa	922	62	749	110	1
Algeria	53	1	47	5	-
Egypt	444	36	359	48	1
Libya	70	1	60	9	-
Morocco	142	17	120	5	-
South Sudan	55	1	40	14	-
The Sudan	65	2	39	24	-
Tunisia	90	4	81	5	-
Western Sahara	3	-	3	-	-
Unspecified	772	36	734	1	1

3.4 Annexure D – Number of tourist by port of entry, January 2024

Port of entry	Province	Frequency
Cape Town International Airport	Western Cape	109 933
Cape Town Harbour	Western Cape	1 463
Telle Bridge	Eastern Cape	5 774
Violsdrift	Northern Cape	4 557
Nakop	Northern Cape	3 476
Other	Northern Cape	410
Ficksburg	Free State	76 125
Maseru Bridge	Free State	57 438
Caledonspoort	Free State	17 217
Other	Free State	10 143
Kosibay	KwaZulu Natal	12 921
Golela	KwaZulu Natal	11 680
Durban International	KwaZulu Natal	2 699
Durban Harbour Passengers	KwaZulu Natal	1 123
Kopfontein	North West	18 261
Schilpad Gate	North West	6 780
Ramathlabama	North West	5 795
Other	North West	1 488
Oliver Tambo International Airport	Gauteng	120 939
Lanseria International Airport	Gauteng	223
Other	Gauteng	7
Lebombo	Mpumalanga	169 310
Oshoek	Mpumalanga	34 973
Jeppes Reef	Mpumalanga	9 162
Mananga	Mpumalanga	9 118
Other	Mpumalanga	10 107
Beit Bridge	Limpopo	247 404
Groblers Bridge	Limpopo	23 320
Total		971 846

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 (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).

4.4 Data

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

- Data routinely collected by immigration officers at all road, air and sea entry ports on all travellers (South African residents and foreign travellers) arriving into or departing from South Africa are captured into the DHA's population Movement Control System (MCS). The counts/statistics relate to the number of individual movements, rather than to the number of people. Hence, the multiple movements of individual people during the calendar month are each counted separately. Generally, the data are collected directly from travel documents either by scanning or capturing onto the ports' electronic database. No forms or cards are used (except on rare occasions when the capturing system is down) to collect information from travellers. Individual ports regularly transmit data onto the national database at the head office of the DHA.
- Stats SA receives downloaded data covering a particular calendar month from the DHA.
- As part of data interrogation, data from OR Tambo International Airport, which has the highest volume of travellers, are compared with passenger statistics from the Airports Company of South Africa (ACSA). As expected, in any specific month, an increase in the volume of passengers reported by ACSA is also reflected in an increase in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. A similar pattern has also been observed when the volume of travellers decreased. In January 2024, the DHA data was 5,5% lower than that of ACSA.

4.5 Limitations

4.5.1 Outbound tourists

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

4.6 Definition of terms

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

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

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

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

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

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

4.6.2 Definitions used specifically in this release

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

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

Region refers to the following country classification:

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

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

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

SADC refers to the 14 countries, excluding South Africa, which belong to the Southern African Development Community.

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

Overseas refers to all countries outside Africa.

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

4.7 Symbols used

- = nil

< = less than

4.8 Rounding off

Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

5. General information

Stats SA publishes approximately 300 different statistical releases each year. It is not economically viable to produce them in more than one of South Africa's 12 official languages, since the releases are used extensively, not only locally but also by international economic and social-scientific communities. Stats SA releases are published in English.

Stats SA has copyright on this publication. Users may apply the information as they wish, provided that they acknowledge Stats SA as the source of the basic data wherever they process, apply, utilise, publish or distribute the data; and also that they specify that the relevant application and analysis (where applicable) result from their own processing of the data.

Advance release calendar

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

Stats SA products

A complete set of Stats SA publications is available at the Stats SA Library and the following libraries:

National Library of South Africa, Pretoria Division
National Library of South Africa, Cape Town Division
Natal Society Library, Pietermaritzburg
Library of Parliament, Cape Town
Bloemfontein Public Library
Johannesburg Public Library
Eastern Cape Library Services, Qonce
Central Regional Library, Polokwane
Central Reference Library, Mbombela
Central Reference Collection, Kimberley
Central Reference Library, Mmabatho

Stats SA also provides a subscription service.

Electronic services

A large range of data are available via online services, CD and computer printouts. For more details about our electronic data, contact user information services.

You can visit us on the Internet at www.statssa.gov.za.

Enquiries

Telephone: (012) 310 8600 (user information services)
(079) 511 9917 (technical enquiries)
(012) 310 8251 (orders)
(012) 310 4883/4885/8018 (library)

Fax: (012) 310 8500/ 8495 (user information services)
(012) 310 6937 (technical enquiries)

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

Postal address: Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001

Produced by Stats SA