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## **STATISTICAL RELEASE**

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# Tourism and migration

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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 July 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.

**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 652 337 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry/exit in July 2021. As presented in Table 1 on page 9, these travellers were made up of 221 704 South African residents and 430 633 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 107 542 arrivals, 114 044 departures and 118 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 217 373, 201 821 and 11 439 respectively.

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

A comparison between the movements in June 2021 and July 2021 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures decreased for South African residents and foreign travellers. Travellers in transit decreased for South African residents but increased for foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 7,0% (from 115 673 in June 2021 to 107 542 in July 2021), departures decreased by 6,6% (from 122 076 in June 2021 to 114 044 in July 2021) and transits decreased by 1,7% (from 120 in June 2021 to 118 in July 2021). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 14,4% (from 253 857 in June 2021 to 217 373 in July 2021), departures decreased by 13,0% (from 231 995 in June 2021 to 201 821 in July 2021) and transits increased by 34,6% (from 8 501 in June 2021 to 11 439 in July 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 July 2021, 35 571 (16,4%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors while 181 802 (83,6%) were classified as visitors. The visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in July 2021 but did not depart in July 2021 [66 376 (36,5%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in July 2021 and left in July 2021 [47 875 (26,3%)]; and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in July 2021 [67 551 (37,2%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In July 2021, there were 30 538 (16,8%) same-day visitors and 151 264 (83,2%) tourists. Between June 2021 and July 2021, the volume of same-day visitors decreased by 13,2% (from 35 178 in June 2021 to 30 538 in July 2021) and that of tourists decreased by 15,4% (from 178 727 in June 2021 to 151 264 in July 2021).

### 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 July 2021, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 466 053 (71,4%) of the 652 337 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 180 121 (27,6%). Compared to air and land transport, a smaller number of travellers, 6 163 (0,9%) used sea transport into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 33 869 (31,5%) came by air, 73 562 (68,4%) came by road and 111 (0,1%) arrived by sea. For departures, 38 997 (34,2%) used air, 74 908 (65,7%) used road and 139 (0,1%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 118 (100,0%) used air transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 45 382 (20,9%) arrived by air, 168 957 (77,7%) came by road and 3 034 (1,4%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 50 316 (24,9%) foreign travellers left by air, 148 626 (73,6%) left by road and 2 879 (1,4%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 11 439 (100,0%) used air transport. Table 2 further shows that of the 30 538 same-day visitors, a majority, 25 704 (84,2%) arrived in the country by road, 4 828 (15,8%) flew into the country and 6 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. Information on tourists shows that 117 370 (77,6%) used road transport, 33 865 (22,4%) came by air transport and 29 (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 July 2021, 21 044 (92,0%) of the 22 877 overseas tourists arrived in the country by air transport, whilst 1 805 (7,9%) came in by road transport and 28 (0,1%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 115 157 (91,8%), 10 222 (8,2%) came by air and one tourist (less than 0,1%) came by sea transport. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 2 441 (89,3%) and 291 (10,7%) used road transport.

### 1.2.2 Regional and national distribution

In July 2021, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 9 028 (39,5%); North America, 8 917 (39,0%); Asia, 2 888 (12,6%); The Middle East, 1 148 (5,0%); Central and South America, 642 (2,8%) and Australasia, 254 (1,1%).

Figure 1 on page 7 indicates that the ten leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in July 2021 were: United States of America (USA), 8 445 (36,9%); United Kingdom (UK), 1 489 (6,5%); India, 1 241 (5,4%); Germany, 1 204 (5,3%); The Netherlands, 1 076 (4,7%); France, 861 (3,8%); Spain, 636 (2,8%); Saudi Arabia, 602 (2,6%); Switzerland, 503 (2,2%) and Belgium, 489 (2,1%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 72,3 % of all tourists from overseas countries.

Virtually, most tourists from Africa, 125 380 (97,9%), came from SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 1 264 (1,0%); East and Central Africa, 1 172 (0,9%) and North Africa 296 (0,2%). Ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in July 2021 were: Mozambique 38 171 (30,4%); Lesotho, 27 766 (22,1%); Zimbabwe, 25 412 (20,3%); Eswatini, 11 107 (8,9%); Botswana, 5 671 (4,5%); Namibia, 5 421 (4,3%); Zambia, 4 769 (3,8%); Malawi, 4 532 (3,6%); Tanzania, 874 (0,7%) and Angola, 820 (0,7%) (see Figure 2 on page 7). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 99,3% of all tourists from the SADC countries.

The ten leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in July 2021 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 3 on page 8, were: Nigeria, 592 (21,7%); Ghana, 403 (14,8%); Kenya, 374 (13,7%); Ethiopia 174 (6,4%); Cameroon, 156 (5,7%); Uganda, 147 (5,4%); Gabon, 143 (5,2%); Egypt, 139 (5,1%); Congo, 75 (2,7%) and Senegal, 57 (2,1%). Tourists from these ten countries constituted 82,7% of all tourists from 'other' African countries.

### 1.2.3 Purpose of visit

Table 4 on pages 15 to 18, shows the number of tourist by country of residence and purpose of visit. It is observed that in July 2021, the majority of tourists, 136 534 (90,3%), were in South Africa for holiday<sup>1</sup> compared to 11 768 (7,8%); 2 732 (1,8%) and 230 (0,2%) who were in South Africa for business, study and for medical treatment respectively.

Within the overseas regions, North America had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for holiday, 98,2% (8 759) followed by Australasia, 97,6% (248); The Middle East, 97,0% (1 113); Central and South America, 94,5% (607); Asia, 94,1% (2 717) and Europe, 92,8% (8 379).

Asia, 2,6% (76) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business, followed by Europe, 1,9% (169); Central and South America, 1,2% (8); Australasia, 0,8% (2); North America, 0,7% (58) and The Middle East, 0,3% (4).

Europe, 5,0% (451) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to study, followed by Central and South America, 4,2% (27); Asia, 3,0% (87); The Middle East, 2,7% (31); Australasia, 1,2% (3) and North America, 1,1% (95).

Australasia had 0,4% (1) of its tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by Europe, 0,3% (29); Asia, 0,3% (8) and North America, 0,1% (5). The Middle East and Central and South America had no tourists who came to South Africa for medical treatment.

The majority of African tourists, 114 446 (89,3%) 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 89,4% (112 118) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 85,2% (2 328) from 'other' African countries. Information on the regions of 'other' African countries shows that 90,0% (1 138) of tourists from West Africa were on holiday, followed by tourists from East and Central Africa, 82,1% (962) and North Africa 77,0% (228).
- Business persons constituted 9,1% (11 384) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 2,1% (58) from 'other' African countries. North Africa, 3,0% (9) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes, followed by East and Central Africa, 2,7% (32) and West Africa, 1,3% (17).
- Students constituted 11,7% (321) of tourists from 'other' African countries compared with 1,4% (1 717) from SADC countries. North Africa, 19,6% (58) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes, followed by East and Central Africa, 13,5% (158) and West Africa, 8,3% (105).
- Medical treatment tourists constituted 0,9% (25) of tourists from 'other' African countries, while those from SADC constituted 0,1% (161) of its tourists. East and Central Africa, 1,7% (20) had the highest proportion of its tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by North Africa, 0,3% (1) and West Africa, 0,3% (4).

### 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 105 128 (69,5%) male and 46 136 (30,5%) female tourists. Overseas tourists were made up of 13 205 (57,7%) male tourists and 9 672 (42,3%) female tourists. There were 89 986 (71,8%) male and 35 394 (28,2%) female tourists from SADC countries. Tourists from 'other' African countries were made up of 1 760 (64,4%) male and 972 (35,6%) female tourists.

The ages of 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 [52 575 (34,8%)]. Taking the regions of residence into consideration, the results show that the highest proportion of tourists from 'other' African countries [826 (30,2%)] and those from overseas countries [4 264 (18,6%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years, whereas those from SADC countries [47 898 (38,2%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years.

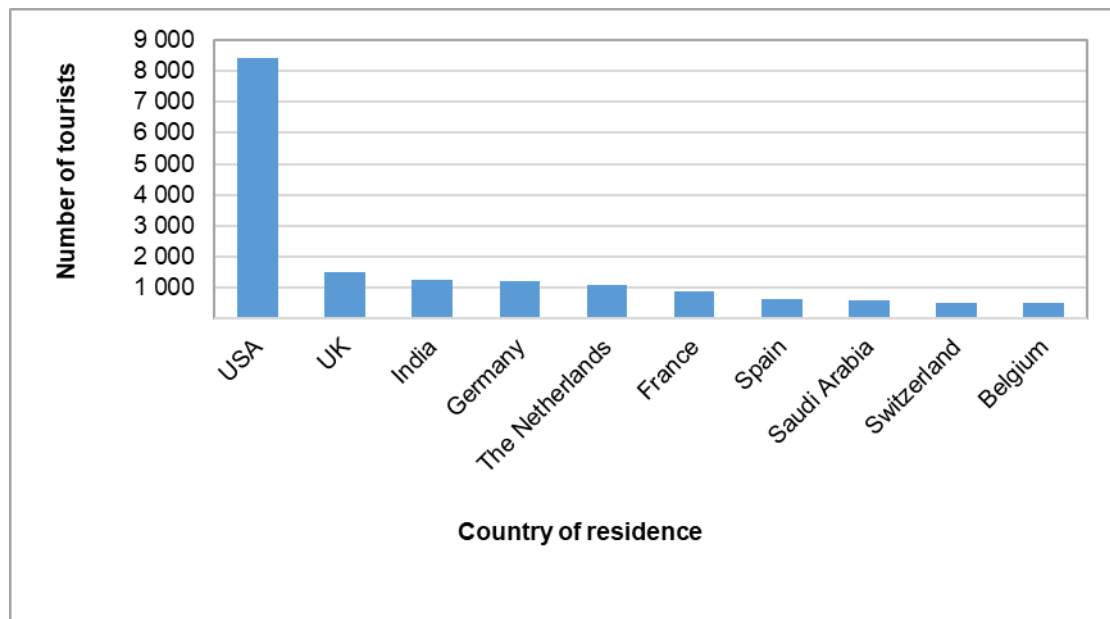
<sup>1</sup> The holiday category includes tourists who came for vacation, visiting friends and relatives, shopping and other personal reasons. See section 4.5.2 on page 21 for a more detailed discussion.

The second highest proportion of tourists from 'other' African countries [747 (27,3%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years, whereas those from SADC countries [29 532 (23,6%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years and those from overseas countries [4 045 (17,7%)] were aged between 45 and 54 years. The median ages of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African countries were 37, 39 and 33 years respectively. The proportion of tourists younger than 15 years was higher among tourists from overseas countries, 10,5% (2 410) compared to those from 'other' African countries, 7,7% (210) and SADC countries, 2,6% (3 311).

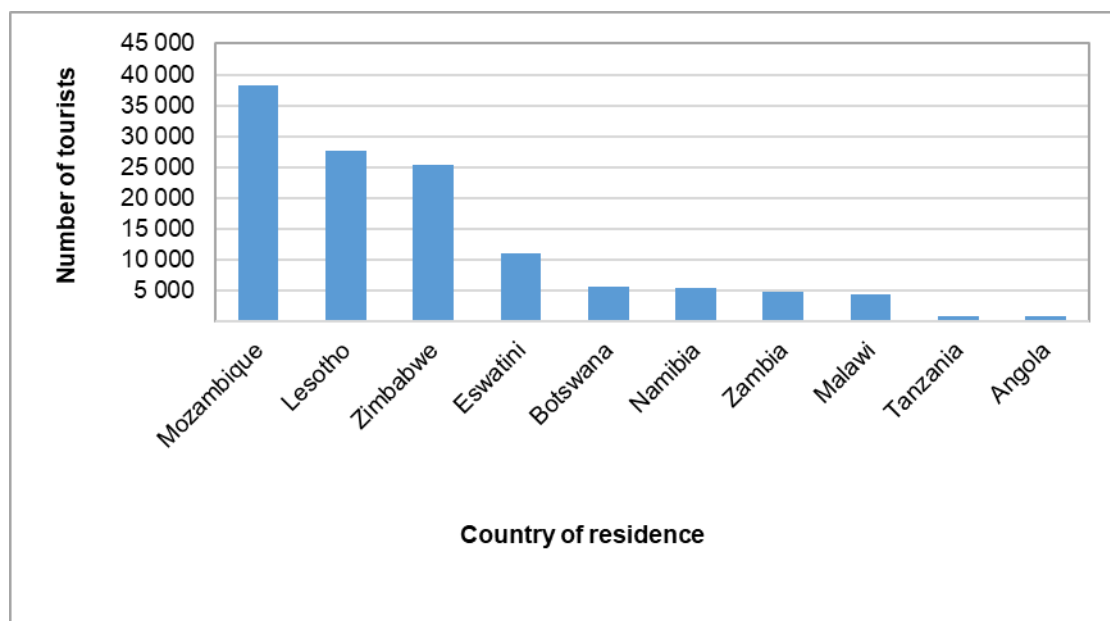
A comparison of the three regions shows higher proportions of the elderly (those aged 65+) among both male and female tourists from overseas. This comprised of 8,0% (1 061) males and 7,5% (723) females from overseas countries. However, tourists aged 65 years and older from the other two regions comprised of less than 3,0% of both male and female tourists: from SADC countries, elderly tourists were made up of 1,3% (1 170) males and 2,8% (1 004) females; while in 'other' African countries elderly tourists made up 1,1% (19) and 2,8% (27) of male and female tourists respectively.

## 2. Figures

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

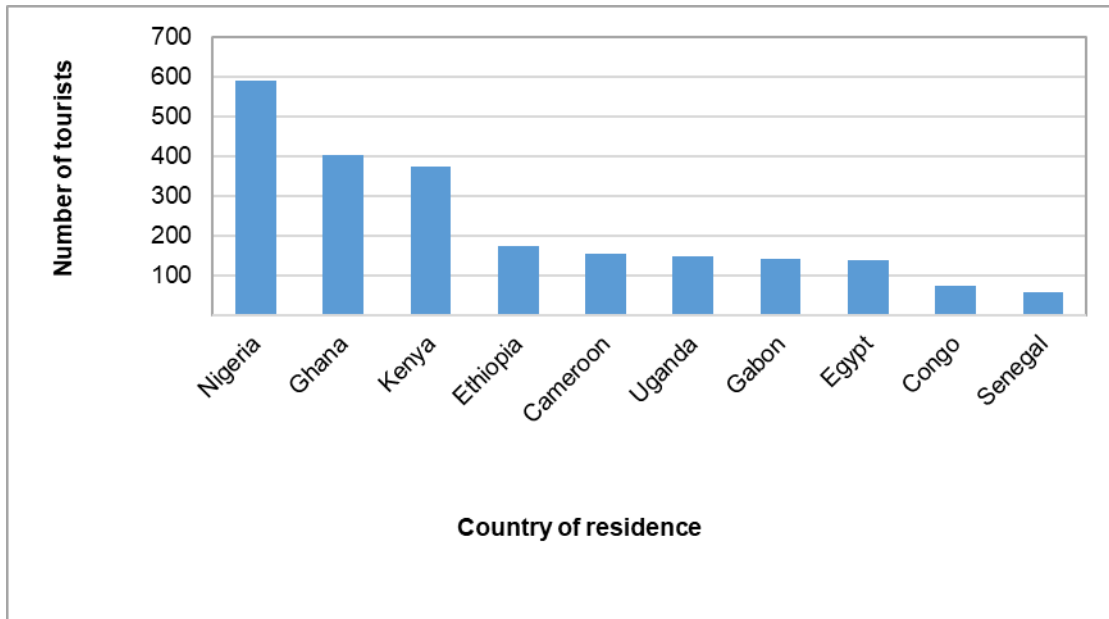


**Figure 2 – Number of tourists from the ten leading Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in July 2021**





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



### 3. Tables

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

Travel Direction	June 2021	July 2021	% Change Jun 2021 – Jul 2021
<b>Total</b>	<b>732 222</b>	<b>652 337</b>	<b>-10,9%</b>
<b>South African residents</b>	<b>237 869</b>	<b>221 704</b>	<b>-6,8%</b>
Arrivals	115 673	107 542	-7,0%
Departures	122 076	114 044	-6,6%
Transits	120	118	-1,7%
<b>Foreign travellers</b>	<b>494 353</b>	<b>430 633</b>	<b>-12,9%</b>
Arrivals	253 857	217 373	-14,4%
Departures	231 995	201 821	-13,0%
Transits	8 501	11 439	34,6%
<b>Foreign arrivals</b>	<b>253 857</b>	<b>217 373</b>	<b>-14,4%</b>
Non-visitors	39 952	35 571	-11,0%
Visitors	213 905	181 802	-15,0%
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>213 905</b>	<b>181 802</b>	<b>-15,0%</b>
Arrivals only	73 278	66 376	-9,4%
Single trips	62 737	47 875	-23,7%
Multiple trips	77 890	67 551	-13,3%
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>213 905</b>	<b>181 802</b>	<b>-15,0%</b>
Same-day	35 178	30 538	-13,2%
Overnight (Tourists)	178 727	151 264	-15,4%

**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>652 337</b>	<b>33 517</b>	<b>2 819</b>	<b>142 018</b>	<b>1 767</b>	<b>180 121</b>	<b>466 053</b>	<b>6 163</b>
<b>South African residents</b>	<b>221 704</b>	<b>14 814</b>	<b>1 388</b>	<b>55 529</b>	<b>1 253</b>	<b>72 984</b>	<b>148 470</b>	<b>250</b>
Arrivals	<b>107 542</b>	6 230	590	26 536	513	<b>33 869</b>	73 562	111
Departures	<b>114 044</b>	8 580	798	28 879	740	<b>38 997</b>	74 908	139
Transit	<b>118</b>	4	-	114	-	<b>118</b>	-	-
<b>Foreign travellers</b>	<b>430 633</b>	<b>18 703</b>	<b>1 431</b>	<b>86 489</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>107 137</b>	<b>317 583</b>	<b>5 913</b>
Arrivals	<b>217 373</b>	8 410	804	35 940	228	<b>45 382</b>	168 957	3 034
Departures	<b>201 821</b>	10 134	627	39 269	286	<b>50 316</b>	148 626	2 879
Transit	<b>11 439</b>	159	-	11 280	-	<b>11 439</b>	-	-
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>181 802</b>	<b>6 398</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>31 843</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>38 693</b>	<b>143 074</b>	<b>35</b>
Same-day	<b>30 538</b>	134	1	4 667	26	<b>4 828</b>	25 704	6
Tourist	<b>151 264</b>	6 264	269	27 176	156	<b>33 865</b>	117 370	29

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

Country of residence	July 2021	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
<b>Total</b>	<b>151 264</b>	<b>6 264</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>27 176</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>33 865</b>	<b>117 370</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Overseas</b>	<b>22 877</b>	<b>4 961</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>15 715</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>21 044</b>	<b>1 805</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>9 028</b>	<b>2 606</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>5 586</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8 277</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>12</b>
Belgium	489	112	1	329	1	443	46	-
Denmark	197	48	1	144	-	193	4	-
France	861	229	1	544	-	774	86	1
Germany	1 204	439	18	664	1	1 122	81	1
Ireland	141	49	-	89	-	138	3	-
Italy	462	197	1	224	-	422	40	-
Poland	143	31	1	87	-	119	24	-
Portugal	276	25	-	154	-	179	97	-
Russian Federation	456	201	2	234	-	437	19	-
Spain	636	150	5	444	-	599	36	1
Switzerland	503	136	8	336	-	480	23	-
The Netherlands	1 076	377	7	633	-	1 017	59	-
Turkey	154	15	7	99	-	121	33	-
UK	1 489	337	20	999	6	1 362	127	-
Other	941	260	5	606	-	871	61	9
<b>North America</b>	<b>8 917</b>	<b>1 333</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>7 086</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>8 563</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>-</b>
Canada	472	79	6	356	2	443	29	-
USA	8 445	1 254	34	6 730	102	8 120	325	-
<b>Central and South America</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>-</b>
Brazil	278	62	4	182	4	252	26	-
Mexico	218	78	-	138	2	218	-	-
Peru	27	3	-	10	-	13	14	-
Other	119	21	-	87	1	109	10	-
<b>Australasia</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>-</b>
Australia	210	31	1	167	-	199	11	-
New Zealand	43	4	-	35	2	41	2	-
Other	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

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

Country of residence	July 2021	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
<b>Middle East</b>	<b>1 148</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1 109</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>-</b>
Israel	78	15	-	54	-	69	9	-
Qatar	171	114	3	53	-	170	1	-
Saudi Arabia	602	423	1	177	-	601	1	-
Other	297	73	1	195	-	269	28	-
<b>Asia</b>	<b>2 888</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>1 945</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2 263</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>16</b>
Bangladesh	148	26	5	98	-	129	19	-
China	297	10	-	144	-	154	143	-
India	1 241	64	64	897	7	1 032	205	4
Indonesia	33	7	1	25	-	33	-	-
Japan	84	15	1	63	1	80	4	-
Pakistan	480	17	19	309	-	345	135	-
Philippines	268	28	13	202	-	243	15	10
South Korea	87	7	-	59	3	69	18	-
Taiwan	50	3	-	11	-	14	36	-
Thailand	69	4	-	63	-	67	2	-
Other	131	17	6	74	-	97	32	2
<b>Africa</b>	<b>128 112</b>	<b>1 295</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>11 311</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>12 663</b>	<b>115 448</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>SADC</b>	<b>125 380</b>	<b>947</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9 231</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>10 222</b>	<b>115 157</b>	<b>1</b>
Angola	820	14	2	701	-	717	103	-
Botswana	5 671	13	4	429	5	451	5 220	-
DRC	762	88	4	593	-	685	77	-
Eswatini	11 107	2	-	140	-	142	10 965	-
Lesotho	27 766	1	2	119	-	122	27 644	-
Madagascar	5	-	-	4	-	4	1	-
Malawi	4 532	13	-	622	1	636	3 896	-
Mauritius	49	3	-	11	-	14	35	-
Mozambique	38 171	4	4	457	1	466	37 705	-
Namibia	5 421	394	-	372	-	766	4 654	1
Seychelles	21	1	-	16	-	17	4	-
Tanzania	874	33	-	407	5	445	429	-
Zambia	4 769	4	1	705	1	711	4 058	-
Zimbabwe	25 412	377	3	4 655	11	5 046	20 366	-

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

Country of residence	July 2021	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
<b>'Other' African</b>	<b>2 732</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2 080</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2 441</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>East and Central Africa</b>	<b>1 172</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>892</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1 060</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>-</b>
Burundi	35	4	-	31	-	35	-	-
Cameroon	156	12	-	132	-	144	12	-
Central African Republic	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Chad	10	1	-	9	-	10	-	-
Comoros	3	1	-	1	-	2	1	-
Congo	75	15	-	58	-	73	2	-
Djibouti	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	6	-	-	6	-	6	-	-
Eritrea	14	2	-	11	-	13	1	-
Ethiopia	174	14	-	130	-	144	30	-
Gabon	143	40	-	96	-	136	7	-
Kenya	374	63	-	276	-	339	35	-
Rwanda	16	-	-	14	-	14	2	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Somalia	15	6	-	9	-	15	-	-
Uganda	147	10	-	115	-	125	22	-
<b>West Africa</b>	<b>1 264</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1 121</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>-</b>
Benin	37	4	-	33	-	37	-	-
Burkina Faso	8	-	-	6	-	6	2	-
Cape Verde Island	3	-	-	3	-	3	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	28	1	-	26	-	27	1	-
Gambia	3	-	-	2	-	2	1	-
Ghana	403	55	-	332	-	387	16	-
Guinea	39	-	-	22	-	22	17	-
Guinea-Bissau	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Liberia	27	2	-	22	-	24	3	-
Mali	40	-	-	14	-	14	26	-
Niger	5	-	-	5	-	5	-	-
Nigeria	592	72	4	442	-	518	74	-
Senegal	57	-	-	56	-	56	1	-

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

Country of residence	July 2021	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Sierra Leone	9	1	-	6	-	7	2	-
Togo	12	-	-	12	-	12	-	-
<b>North Africa</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>-</b>
Algeria	11	1	-	8	-	9	2	-
Egypt	139	19	8	107	-	134	5	-
Libya	49	4	-	28	-	32	17	-
Morocco	24	3	-	16	-	19	5	-
South Sudan	18	6	-	12	-	18	-	-
The Sudan	34	9	-	20	-	29	5	-
Tunisia	21	3	1	15	-	19	2	-
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>-</b>

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

Country of residence	July 2021	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
<b>Total</b>	<b>151 264</b>	<b>11 768</b>	<b>136 534</b>	<b>2 732</b>	<b>230</b>
<b>Overseas</b>	<b>22 877</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>21 823</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>9 028</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>8 379</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>29</b>
Belgium	489	11	460	15	3
Denmark	197	2	181	14	-
France	861	19	755	87	-
Germany	1 204	28	1 062	111	3
Ireland	141	4	131	5	1
Italy	462	15	397	49	1
Poland	143	1	140	2	-
Portugal	276	2	270	4	-
Russian Federation	456	3	451	2	-
Spain	636	12	613	11	-
Switzerland	503	4	476	23	-
The Netherlands	1 076	20	1 011	39	6
Turkey	154	2	141	11	-
UK	1 489	24	1 409	41	15
Other	941	22	882	37	-
<b>North America</b>	<b>8 917</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>8 759</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>5</b>
Canada	472	1	460	9	2
USA	8 445	57	8 299	86	3
<b>Central and South America</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>-</b>
Brazil	278	7	255	16	-
Mexico	218	-	213	5	-
Peru	27	-	27	-	-
Other	119	1	112	6	-
<b>Australasia</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
Australia	210	1	205	3	1
New Zealand	43	-	43	-	-
Other	1	1	-	-	-



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

Country of residence	July 2021	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
<b>Middle East</b>	<b>1 148</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1 113</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>-</b>
Israel	78	-	73	5	-
Qatar	171	-	166	5	-
Saudi Arabia	602	1	597	4	-
Other	297	3	277	17	-
<b>Asia</b>	<b>2 888</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>2 717</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>8</b>
Bangladesh	148	1	145	1	1
China	297	23	273	1	-
India	1 241	40	1 159	39	3
Indonesia	33	-	33	-	-
Japan	84	3	75	6	-
Pakistan	480	5	466	9	-
Philippines	268	-	256	8	4
South Korea	87	-	75	12	-
Taiwan	50	1	49	-	-
Thailand	69	1	67	1	-
Other	131	2	119	10	-
<b>Africa</b>	<b>128 112</b>	<b>11 442</b>	<b>114 446</b>	<b>2 038</b>	<b>186</b>
<b>SADC</b>	<b>125 380</b>	<b>11 384</b>	<b>112 118</b>	<b>1 717</b>	<b>161</b>
Angola	820	4	772	36	8
Botswana	5 671	960	4 463	216	32
DRC	762	21	667	64	10
Eswatini	11 107	642	10 330	115	20
Lesotho	27 766	912	26 299	543	12
Madagascar	5	-	5	-	-
Malawi	4 532	226	4 255	49	2
Mauritius	49	-	48	1	-
Mozambique	38 171	960	37 123	72	16
Namibia	5 421	3 354	1 774	279	14
Seychelles	21	1	20	-	-
Tanzania	874	65	769	30	10
Zambia	4 769	1 674	3 053	40	2
Zimbabwe	25 412	2 565	22 540	272	35

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

Country of residence	July 2021	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
<b>Other' African</b>	<b>2 732</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>2 328</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>East and Central Africa</b>	<b>1 172</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>20</b>
Burundi	35	-	30	4	1
Cameroon	156	5	136	14	1
Central African Republic	1	-	-	1	-
Chad	10	1	9	-	-
Comoros	3	-	3	-	-
Congo	75	1	48	21	5
Djibouti	2	-	2	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	6	-	4	2	-
Eritrea	14	-	14	-	-
Ethiopia	174	4	160	8	2
Gabon	143	1	120	20	2
Kenya	374	18	292	60	4
Rwanda	16	1	13	2	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	1	-	1	-	-
Somalia	15	-	12	3	-
Uganda	147	1	118	23	5
<b>West Africa</b>	<b>1 264</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1 138</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>4</b>
Benin	37	-	35	2	-
Burkina Faso	8	-	5	3	-
Cape Verde Island	3	-	3	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	28	-	24	4	-
Gambia	3	-	3	-	-
Ghana	403	5	381	15	2
Guinea	39	-	31	7	1
Guinea-Bissau	1	-	1	-	-
Liberia	27	1	23	3	-
Mali	40	-	39	1	-
Niger	5	-	5	-	-
Nigeria	592	10	514	68	-
Senegal	57	1	54	1	1

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

Country of residence	July 2021	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Sierra Leone	9	-	8	1	-
Togo	12	-	12	-	-
<b>North Africa</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>1</b>
Algeria	11	-	10	1	-
Egypt	139	7	114	17	1
Libya	49	-	38	11	-
Morocco	24	-	18	6	-
South Sudan	18	2	7	9	-
The Sudan	34	-	22	12	-
Tunisia	21	-	19	2	-
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>

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

Sex	Age group	July 2021	Region			
			Overseas	SADC	‘Other’ African	Unspecified
<b>All</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>151 264</b>	<b>22 877</b>	<b>125 380</b>	<b>2 732</b>	<b>275</b>
	0-14	5 934	2 410	3 311	210	3
	15-24	11 711	3 574	7 694	436	7
	25-34	34 671	4 264	29 532	826	49
	35-44	52 575	3 833	47 898	747	97
	45-54	30 619	4 045	26 174	328	72
	55-64	11 745	2 967	8 597	139	42
	65+	4 009	1 784	2 174	46	5
<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>105 128</b>	<b>13 205</b>	<b>89 986</b>	<b>1 760</b>	<b>177</b>
	0-14	2 989	1 215	1 671	101	2
	15-24	6 216	1 765	4 183	266	2
	25-34	23 446	2 442	20 439	530	35
	35-44	39 407	2 411	36 412	525	59
	45-54	22 751	2 475	19 996	232	48
	55-64	8 068	1 836	6 115	87	30
	65+	2 251	1 061	1 170	19	1
<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>46 136</b>	<b>9 672</b>	<b>35 394</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>98</b>
	0-14	2 945	1 195	1 640	109	1
	15-24	5 495	1 809	3 511	170	5
	25-34	11 225	1 822	9 093	296	14
	35-44	13 168	1 422	11 486	222	38
	45-54	7 868	1 570	6 178	96	24
	55-64	3 677	1 131	2 482	52	12
	65+	1 758	723	1 004	27	4

## 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 July 2021, the DHA data was 3,7% 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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