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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 June 2020. Specific focus is on foreign arrivals who entered the country during this month. The foreign arrivals are classified by region of residence. Details of their mode of travel; age and sex distribution are also provided.

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Statistician-General

1. Key findings

1.1 Travellers

1.1.1 Number of travellers

Number of travellers between June 2019 and June 2020 as well as between May 2020 and June 2020 are not necessarily comparable due to the hard lockdown level 5 which the country introduced on the 26th March 2020. A general expectation is that no visitors would be observed, as we may see in the analysis that follows, where foreign arrivals coming in and leaving the country during this period were fewer than can be expected.

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 192 376 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry/exit in June 2020. As presented in Table 1 on page 5, these travellers were made up of 64 674 South African residents and 127 702 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 31 245 arrivals, 33 429 departures and no travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 62 841, 64 721 and 140, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in June 2019 and June 2020 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and travellers in transit decreased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals decreased by 93,7% (from 495 461 in June 2019 to 31 245 in June 2020). Departures decreased by 94,3% (from 584 008 in June 2019 to 33 429 in June 2020), and transits decreased by 100,0% (from 836 in June 2019 to 0 in June 2020). For foreign travellers, arrivals decreased by 94,6% (from 1 163 574 in June 2019 to 62 841 in June 2020), departures decreased by 93,8% (from 1 044 833 in June 2019 to 64 721 in June 2020) whereas transits decreased by 99,8% (from 67 192 in June 2019 to 140 in June 2020).

A comparison between the movements in May 2020 and June 2020 indicates that the volume of arrivals and departures increased for both groups of travellers. Travellers in transit increased for foreign travellers and there were no South African residents in transit in both May 2020 and June 2020. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 20,6% (from 25 915 in May 2020 to 31 245 in June 2020) and departures increased by 42,3% (from 23 499 in May 2020 to 33 429 in June 2020). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 27,0% (from 49 481 in May 2020 to 62 841 in June 2020), departures increased by 18,6% (from 54 551 in May 2020 to 64 721 in June 2020) whereas transits increased by 3400,0% (from 4 in May 2020 to 140 in June 2020).

1.1.2 Mode of travel

Information presented in Table 2 on page 6 shows that in June 2020, road transport was the most common mode of travel used by 173 159 (90,0%) of the 192 376 travellers. The total number of travellers who used air transport was 18 582 (9,7%). Compared to the use of air and land transport, a smaller number of travellers, 635 (0,3%) used sea transport. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 5 256 (16,8%) came by air, 25 573 (81,8%) came by road and 416 (1,3%) arrived by sea transport. For departures, 7 546 (22,6%) used air, 25 804 (77,2%) used road and 79 (0,2%) left by sea transport.

In the case of foreign travellers, 337 (0,5%) arrived by air, 62 392 (99,3%) came by road and 112 (0,2%) arrived by sea transport. When departing South Africa, 5 303 (8,2%) foreign travellers left by air, 59 390 (91,8%) left by road and 28 (less than 0,1%) left by sea transport. A small number of travellers in transit, 140 (100,0%) used air transport.

1.1.3 Mode of travel

The country of residence of foreign arrivals is used to categorise them according to their respective region. For the purpose of this release, the presentation of the analysis is only up to the regional level due to a small number of foreign arrivals. Information on the specific region of foreign arrivals and the mode of travel used to enter South Africa is provided in Table 3 on page 7. In June 2020, 181 (33,0%) of the 549 overseas foreign travellers arrived in the country by air transport, whilst 266 (48,5%) came in by road transport and 102 (18,6%) arrived by sea transport. Foreign arrivals from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 62 085 (99,8%), 111 (0,2%) came by air travel and 8 (less than 0,1%) came by sea. Foreign arrivals from 'other' African countries arrived in South Africa by road 30 (61,2%), whereas 17 (34,7%) came in by air and 2 (4,1%) came by sea.

1.1.4 Regional and national distribution

In June 2020, South Africa received 549 foreign arrivals from overseas regions and their distribution was as follows: Europe, 276 (50,3%); Asia, 205 (37,3%); Central and South America, 28 (5,1%); North America, 26 (4,7%); Australasia, 11 (2,0%) and the Middle East, 3 (0,5%).

Virtually, most foreign arrivals from Africa, 62 204 (99,9%), came from the SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining foreign arrivals from Africa is as follows: West Africa, 27 (less than 0,1%); East and Central Africa, 19 (less than 0,1%); and North Africa 3 (less than 0,1%) as shown in Table 3 on page 7.

1.1.5 Sex and age distribution

Table 4 on page 8 shows that in June 2020, there were 59 911 (95,3%) male and 2 930 (4,7%) female foreign arrivals. Foreign arrivals from overseas were made up of 360 (65,6%) male foreign arrivals and 189 (34,4%) female foreign arrivals. There were 59 486 (95,6%) male and 2 718 (4,4%) female foreign arrivals from SADC countries. Foreign arrivals from 'other' African countries were made up of 43 (87,8%) male and 6 (12,2%) female foreign arrivals. The majority of foreign arrivals were aged between 35 and 44 years [28 546 (45,4%)], followed by the age group 45 and 54 years [13 869 (22,1%)] and age group 25 and 34 years [13 574 (21,6%)].

2. Tables

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

Travel Direction	June 2019	May 2020	June 2020	% Change May 2020 – Jun 2020	% Change Jun 2019 – Jun 2020
Total	3 355 904	153 450	192 376	25,4%	-94,3%
South African residents	1 080 305	49 414	64 674	30,9%	-94,0%
Arrivals	495 461	25 915	31 245	20,6%	-93,7%
Departures	584 008	23 499	33 429	42,3%	-94,3%
Transits	836	-	-	-	-100,0%
Foreign travellers	2 275 599	104 036	127 702	22,7%	-94,4%
Arrivals	1 163 574	49 481	62 841	27,0%	-94,6%
Departures	1 044 833	54 551	64 721	18,6%	-93,8%
Transits	67 192	4	140	3400,0%	-99,8%

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	O.R. Tambo	Other Airports	Total		
Total	192 376	4 147	92	14 276	67	18 582	173 159	635
South African residents	64 674	2 550	65	10 120	67	12 802	51 377	495
Arrivals	31 245	361	41	4 824	30	5 256	25 573	416
Departures	33 429	2 189	24	5 296	37	7 546	25 804	79
Transit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Foreign travellers	127 702	1 597	27	4 156	-	5 780	121 782	140
Arrivals	62 841	63	13	261	-	337	62 392	112
Departures	64 721	1 508	14	3 781	-	5 303	59 390	28
Transit	140	26	-	114	-	140	-	-

Table 3 – Number of foreign arrivals by region of residence and mode of travel, June 2020

Region of residence	June 2020	Air				Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Air		
Total	62 841	63	13	261	337	62 392	112
Overseas	549	49	11	121	181	266	102
Europe	276	48	10	38	96	115	65
North America	26	1	-	3	4	22	-
Central and South America	28	-	-	10	10	12	6
Australasia	11	-	1	7	8	3	-
Middle East	3	-	-	2	2	1	-
Asia	205	-	-	61	61	113	31
Africa	62 253	14	2	112	128	62 115	10
SADC	62 204	14	2	95	111	62 085	8
Other' African	49	-	-	17	17	30	2
East and Central Africa	19	-	-	5	5	14	
West Africa	27	-	-	12	12	13	2
North Africa	3	-	-	-	-	3	-
Unspecified	39	-	-	28	28	11	-

Table 4 – Number of foreign arrivals by sex, age group and region of residence

Sex	Age group	June 2020	Region of residence			
			Overseas	SADC	'Other' African	Unspecified
All	Total	62 841	549	62 204	49	39
	0-14	511	32	474	5	-
	15-24	1 555	55	1 492	8	-
	25-34	13 574	137	13 422	7	8
	35-44	28 546	148	28 367	21	10
	45-54	13 869	69	13 782	4	14
	55-64	4 004	69	3 927	2	6
	65+	782	39	740	2	1
Male	Total	59 911	360	59 486	43	22
	0-14	282	16	262	4	-
	15-24	1 066	29	1 032	5	-
	25-34	13 008	89	12 909	6	4
	35-44	27 788	106	27 656	20	6
	45-54	13 328	43	13 273	4	8
	55-64	3 775	52	3 718	2	3
	65+	664	25	636	2	1
Female	Total	2 930	189	2 718	6	17
	0-14	229	16	212	1	-
	15-24	489	26	460	3	-
	25-34	566	48	513	1	4
	35-44	758	42	711	1	4
	45-54	541	26	509	-	6
	55-64	229	17	209	-	3
	65+	118	14	104	-	-

3. Explanatory notes

NOTE TO USERS

Though this release does not include tourists, we keep this concepts as the will be relevant once data on visitors become available. In January 2014, Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), made changes in the *Tourism and Migration* statistical release. This change has become necessary as a result of the implementation of the enhanced Movement Control System (e-MCS) at the country's ports of entry. Currently, the new system (e-MCS) is operational at over 95% of the country's ports of entry. The change affects the identification of Transit Travellers that are currently categorised under Direction instead of Purpose of Movement.

3.1 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.

3.2 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 of foreign travellers are also provided.

3.3 Scope and coverage

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

3.4 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 June 2020, the DHA data was 4 542,0% higher than that of ACSA.

3.5 Limitations

3.5.1 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.

3.5.2 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.

3.6 Definition of terms

3.6.1 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.

3.6.2 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.

3.7 Symbols used

- = nil

< = less than

3.8 Rounding off

Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

4. 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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